



VOICESFROMTHEFRONTLINE

Where lasting change begins

Ten years of campaigning by and
for women and girls

Impact Report, 2026



Acknowledgements and data notes

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Quotes are used with the consent of those quoted and are attributed to the individuals named. Where organisations requested anonymity, information has been used without attribution.

For more information about Rosa and the Voices from the Frontline programme, visit rosauk.org.

Rosa Fund, c/o Sayer Vincent,
110 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0TG

Charity number: 1124856

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THEFRONTLINE**

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Foreword

Rosa is extremely proud of its history of funding campaigning led by women and girls. Ten years ago, Rosa launched its Voices from the Frontline fund, using the modest funding we had to support women's and girls' organisations to speak up. Ten years later, we now have a considerable body of evidence to demonstrate the power of funding this work, which we're proud to share in this report.

The power of women-led campaigning

The rights that women and girls in the UK enjoy today were not given. They were fought for and won by women organising and mobilising, just like those in this report.

Votes for women, sex and pregnancy discrimination law, changes to the law and response to domestic abuse, getting women's health on the national agenda; these all came about as a result of campaigning led by women. Like the examples in our report, these campaigns were rooted in communities and kept going when progress was slow, funding was scarce, and the path ahead was unclear.

When women and girls are resourced to campaign, the impact reaches far beyond individual policies. Through organising and mobilising they can reshape public debate, challenge harmful norms, and create lasting social change.

A thriving women and girls sector is vital to enable individuals to challenge and change laws, policies, attitudes and practices.

Changing lives, not just policies

Rosa recognises that policy change, while vital, is not the only measure of success. Changing hearts and minds, challenging dominant narratives, building confidence within communities and individuals; these are valid and necessary outcomes in their own right. Often, these cultural shifts create the conditions that make legislative change possible in the first place. And when a policy win is secured, it is rarely the end of the journey. Without continued campaigning, stewardship and collaboration, changes in law or policy may fail to deliver change in practice.

A thriving women and girls sector is vital to enable individuals to challenge and change laws, policies, attitudes and practices. Many women's and girls' organisations are small, grassroots, place based, and work with women and girls in person, creating the connections and trust which are essential in enabling women to speak up and drive change. These organisations build collective power, creating support structures that help women and girls to be heard by decision-makers, by communities, and by one another.



The untapped potential of women and girls

There have been significant wins over the past decade but women and girls still face persistent inequality - from male violence and rising misogyny, both online and in the real world, to threats to bodily autonomy, inadequate childcare, insecure maternity rights, increasing poverty and growing racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism. The case for investing in women and girls to drive change has never been clearer or more urgent.

What this report shows is the huge power and potential of investing in women's and girls' campaigning.

With support from our funders, Rosa will continue to champion and fund the women and girls sector's ability to drive change. But there is so much untapped potential.

In 2023, Rosa's analysis showed that just 1.8% of all charitable grants were awarded to women-led women's and girls' organisations. Voices from the Frontline remains the only UK fund dedicated to campaigning by women's and girls' organisations, and Rosa has to fundraise every penny we give out in grants. We're grateful to the donors who have made the Fund possible, including Cummins Inc and Jack Bertram.

Women's and girls' organisations across the UK need funders to invest in them to campaign, trusting that they know what needs to change to build a society where women and girls are safe, healthy and equal. We urge funders who wish to drive systemic change to prioritise and ring-fence funding for women's and girls' organisations, and to accept the uncertainty that comes with funding campaigning work.

The path to change is long, uncertain and may have many diversions on the way. No individual campaign is a sure investment with guaranteed outcomes. But what this report shows is the huge power and potential of investing in women's and girls' campaigning. The return, in impact, of a small investment can be immense. And the cost of failing to support women to speak out would be even greater.

Executive summary

Rosa created Voices from the Frontline because it believed that campaigning and influencing deserved dedicated support. This report, marking the fund's tenth year of operation, shows what the first six rounds of investment have made possible.

Between December 2015 and February 2025, across 151 grants totalling £708,376, the Voices from the Frontline fund supported 132 women's and girls' organisations across the UK to campaign for change. The organisations funded through the programme have contributed to nine momentous law and policy changes, including the decriminalisation of abortion in Northern Ireland, a ban on virginity testing and hymenoplasty across the UK, new flexible working rights in England, Scotland and Wales, and Wales's first 10-year Women's Health Plan. Taken together, those changes alone have affected at least 13 million women and girls across the four nations.

But policy and law changes are not the only measure of success. The report makes clear that progress is not linear. Some of the most significant impact in these pages – the policies changed, rights won, lives positively impacted – happens because campaigns bring women together to raise public and professional awareness about critical issues affecting women and girls, train professionals, build coalitions and give survivors a platform. A police officer or midwife retrained thinks differently for decades. A coalition formed around one election campaign becomes the

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infrastructure for the next. A survivor supported to challenge unjust systems remains empowered. A group of women brought together by their desire for change gain connection and mutual support. These outcomes do not always appear in monitoring reports, but they are where lasting change begins.

What this fund demonstrates, above all, is that investing in women's and girls' organisations to do campaigning and influencing can be highly effective. The organisations in this report include national policy bodies with decades of campaigning experience and small, grassroots groups that applied to the Voices from the Frontline fund with no previous campaigning experience but a strong idea and the commitment to pursue it. What they have in common is that, when trusted with the right kind of funding, there is the potential for real change at a remarkable scale relative to the size of the investment.

Action on Postpartum Psychosis (APP) campaigners hand over a 6,000 signature petition calling for a Mother and Baby Unit in Northern Ireland.



What's special about the Voices from the Frontline fund?

Grant holders name four qualities of the Voices fund that made the difference:



it is **flexible**, adapting to what a campaign needs rather than imposing fixed conditions;

it is **collaborative**, building sustained connections between Rosa and the organisations it backs;

it is **accessible**, with a video application process designed to open the fund to organisations with limited resources and infrastructure;

and it is **bold**, Rosa is willing to go first, backing campaigns before they have proof of concept and at the moment that backing matters most.

The political context in which this report is published makes the case for this kind of funding more urgent. Rights won over decades are under threat. The funding landscape for campaigning and influencing work is difficult. And the organisations best placed to defend and advance women's rights, particularly Black and racially-minoritised women, are those least likely to secure the funding they need to do it.

Key facts

Ten years of Voices from the Frontline, 2015-2025



Nine policy and legal changes affecting **13 million** women and girls.

In the long term, the systemic changes secured by Voices-funded organisations **potentially affect all women and girls in the UK**: through safer workplaces, stronger rights, more responsive healthcare, and a legal and policy framework that better reflects their needs.



151 grants awarded.

Over its first six rounds, the programme made **151 grants to 132 women's and girls' organisations** working on issues including sexual and reproductive rights, violence against women and girls, economic abuse, maternity rights, women's health equity, Honour Based Abuse, period poverty, migrant rights, and political representation.



£708,376

invested in women's and girls' campaigning.

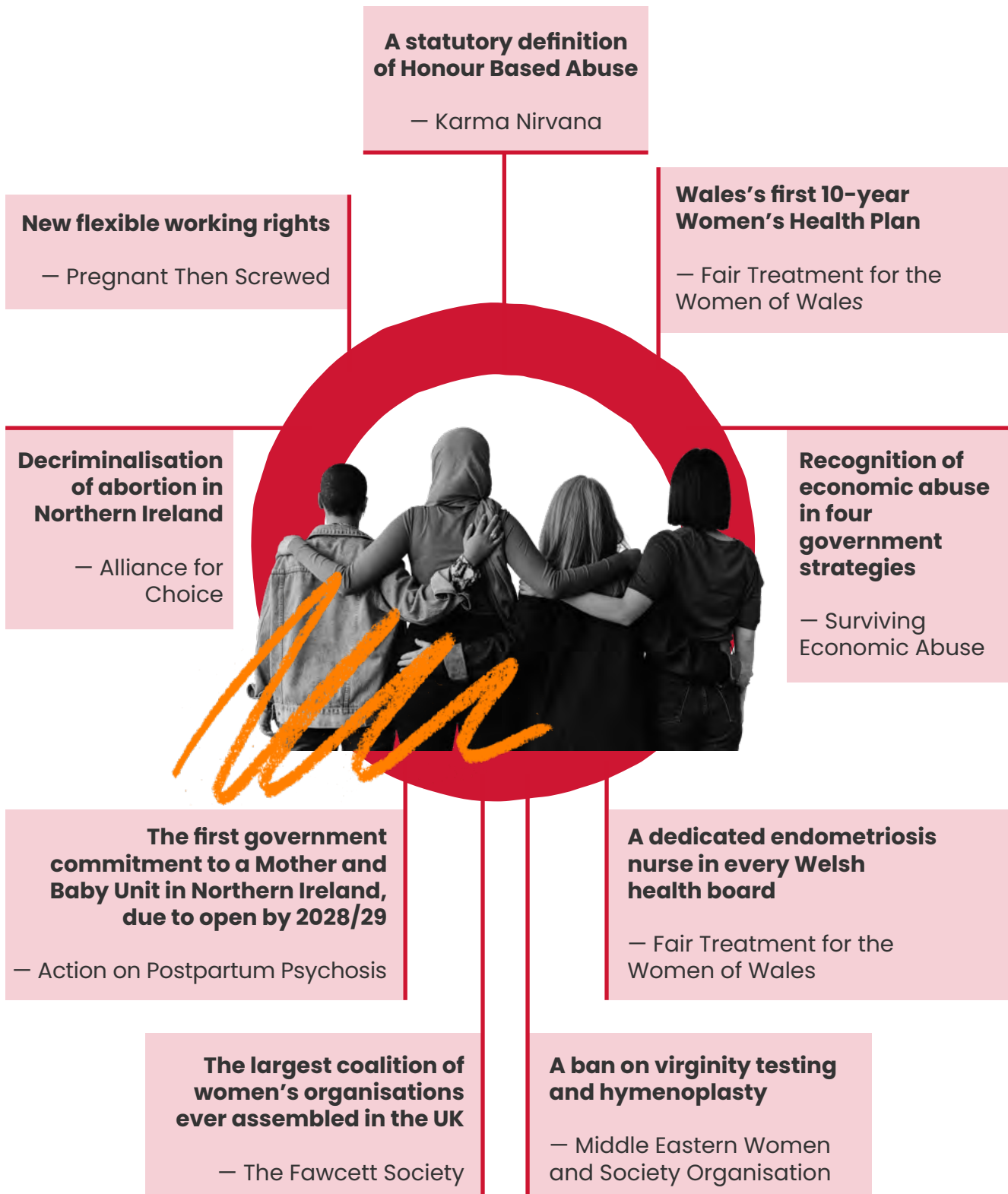
Grants have grown significantly over the programme's life, from around £2,000 in the earliest rounds to **up to £10,000** in round seven, which followed the period of this report.



132 women's and girls' organisations supported.

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The significant law and policy changes contributed to by Voices-funded organisations.



Beyond the headline wins

The nine key wins are the most visible elements of a wider body of campaigning achievements, including:

- **Anawim** contributed to sentencing reform including the removal of short custodial sentences for women in favour of community resolutions and a presumption against custodial sentencing for pregnant women.
- **BelEve's It Is That Deep campaign** has grown into a national programme training teachers, safeguarding leads and youth practitioners across England to raise awareness about sexual harassment.
- **Deaf Ethnic Women's Association's** campaign film was shared 3,600 times and opened doors to local government decision-making.
- **Dynamic Support** has built institutional partnerships that have shifted how universities and employment programmes engage with Black and racially-minoritised women.
- **Fourth Wave**, one of several organisations campaigning on period poverty, gathered 134,800 petition signatures calling on the government to provide free sanitary products in schools. In 2020, the Department for Education introduced a free period products scheme for state-maintained schools and colleges in England, which continues to operate.
- **50:50 Parliament's Amplifying Muted Voices** project ensured that the experiences of Black and racially-minoritised women were included as formal evidence in the Speaker's Conference on political safety and culture, with insights taken to the Leader of the House of Commons to inform parliamentary modernisation.

*Not every campaign delivers a headline win, and **significant change** might happen quickly or take decades. But achievements like these are where lasting change begins for women and girls.*

Recommendations

Rosa's call to funders is direct:



- **Invest in women's and girls' organisations to drive change.** And invest right across the range of organisations that make up the women and girls sector, including both national policy-focused campaigning organisations and local grassroots organisations working on the frontline, because work and connections at different levels are crucial to effecting sustainable change.
- **Accept uncertainty and accept that change is non-linear and can take years.** Recognise that a policy or legislative win is not the end, but often the beginning of a new phase of changemaking work.
- **Trust that the organisations closest to the communities most affected know what needs to happen.** When you do, the evidence in this report shows what becomes possible.
- **Work with Rosa.** If you want to see change at community and national level for women and girls, Rosa is a route to do this. Voices from the Frontline remains the only UK fund dedicated to this work, with a unique approach which is accessible and deeply connected to the women and girls sector.

1. About Voices from the Frontline

Voices from the Frontline is Rosa's campaigning and influencing grant programme. Launched in 2015, it funds women's and girls' organisations across the UK to campaign for change in policy, in law, and in the practices and systems that shape women's and girls' lives.

This report looks back on the fund's first ten years of operation. It draws on grant holder activity across rounds one to six, from the programme's launch in 2015 to 2025.

Accessible

The fund is deliberately designed to be accessible to small and under-resourced organisations. Grants typically range from £5,000 to £10,000 and campaigners apply by submitting a video, usually no more than three minutes long, rather than a lengthy written form. Grant holders have been clear that this approach opened the fund to organisations that would otherwise struggle to apply.

“ Smaller charities won't necessarily have a fundraising manager or lots of money to commission support for bid writing. Making application processes easy to understand and navigate so that people with limited time and experience can submit successfully is huge. ”

— Isabel Linton, Charity Manager,
Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales

Connected to the sector

Applications are assessed by freelance assessors and Rosa staff. The panel which decides on the applications to recommend for funding is made up of sector experts and past grant holders as well as Rosa Trustees and funders.

Grant holders bring direct knowledge of the realities facing women and girls on the ground.

“ As a member of the panel for the Rosa fund, I am deeply impressed by Rosa’s decision to incorporate past grant holders into the panel. This choice is in harmony with Rosa’s overarching vision of advancing diverse and inclusive voices to facilitate positive change. Rosa’s approach transcends mere tokenism; they actively embody their principles. ”

— Evelyn James, Voices grants panellist and grant holder

“ It was a privilege to be involved in such a careful, kind and pro-active fund. I am really glad I could be involved! ”

— Vivienne Isebor, Voices grants panellist and grant holder

“ It was such a good experience and what a group of women! I was deeply moved by the care and energy in the room, channelled out to all these brilliant organisations. ”

— Rose Curnew, Voices grants panellist

Focused on campaigning and influencing

The most distinctive aspect of the Voices fund is its purpose. The fund exists specifically to support campaigning and influencing work, a category of activity that many funders avoid.

Campaigning funding is different to service delivery funding, which can be more restrictive and is the most common type of funding in the UK. Campaigning funding supports organisations to amplify an urgent need for change, to build evidence,



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assemble a coalition, attract media, lobby decision makers, and wait, sometimes for years, for the moment when change becomes possible.

“ With a campaign, you start with an idea and follow where it leads. It can take a hundred different directions. Funders who understand campaigning know that progress is the measure, not just the final result. ”

— MEWSO

Over its first six rounds, the programme funded women's and girls' organisations working on issues including sexual and reproductive rights, violence against women and girls, economic abuse, maternity rights, women's health equity, Honour Based Abuse, period poverty, migrant rights, and political representation. Grant holders have ranged from national policy organisations with decades of experience to grassroots groups that are entirely new to campaigning and influencing.

*The fund is **flexible, collaborative, accessible, and bold.***

Rosa's approach to funding this work is shaped by four principles that emerge consistently from what grant holders describe as making the difference: the fund is flexible, collaborative, accessible, and bold, as Rosa is willing to go first, funding fledgling campaigns.

Rosa's relationship with grant holders does not end with the grant. Organisations that have gone through the Voices programme describe gaining not only funding but a connection to the wider women and girls sector, a framework for articulating what their campaigns are doing and why it matters, and the confidence that comes from having their work recognised by a credible funder. Several of the organisations in this report describe Rosa's sustained investment as foundational to their development as campaigning organisations, not simply as a source of funding for individual projects.

“ The support from Rosa was the first grant funding we secured for our General Election campaign, and it enabled us to build our case for support to secure further funding for our policy and campaigning work alongside survivors. ”

— Surviving Economic Abuse

2. How change happens

Social change is not linear, and there is more to it than headline changes in law and policy. The work of women's and girls' organisations is no exception.

The Sheila McKechnie (SMK) Foundation's Social Change Grid (figure below) is a useful tool for understanding how social change happens and shedding light on why the Voices approach is so effective.

It maps changemaking activity against two axes, plotting activity horizontally from individual to society-wide and vertically from informal at the top to formal at the bottom. This creates four quadrants, from community spaces at the top left, where lived experience is gathered and grassroots movements begin; spaces of media and public debate top right, where issues become visible; individual experiences and interactions on the bottom left; and institutional spaces, including Parliament, government and local authorities on the bottom right, where formal decisions are made.

Discussions of campaigning and changemaking tend to focus on activities over on the right side – those are the reports, memes, stunts, events, meetings, legal cases, petitions and letters to decision-makers that gain publicity and are the visible part of campaigning. And a 'win' in the form of a new law or government policy is often seen as the gold standard of campaign impact. But lasting change rarely happens in just one quadrant: successful campaigns emerge from people's experience and move around the grid to effect change in law, in public culture and in communities.

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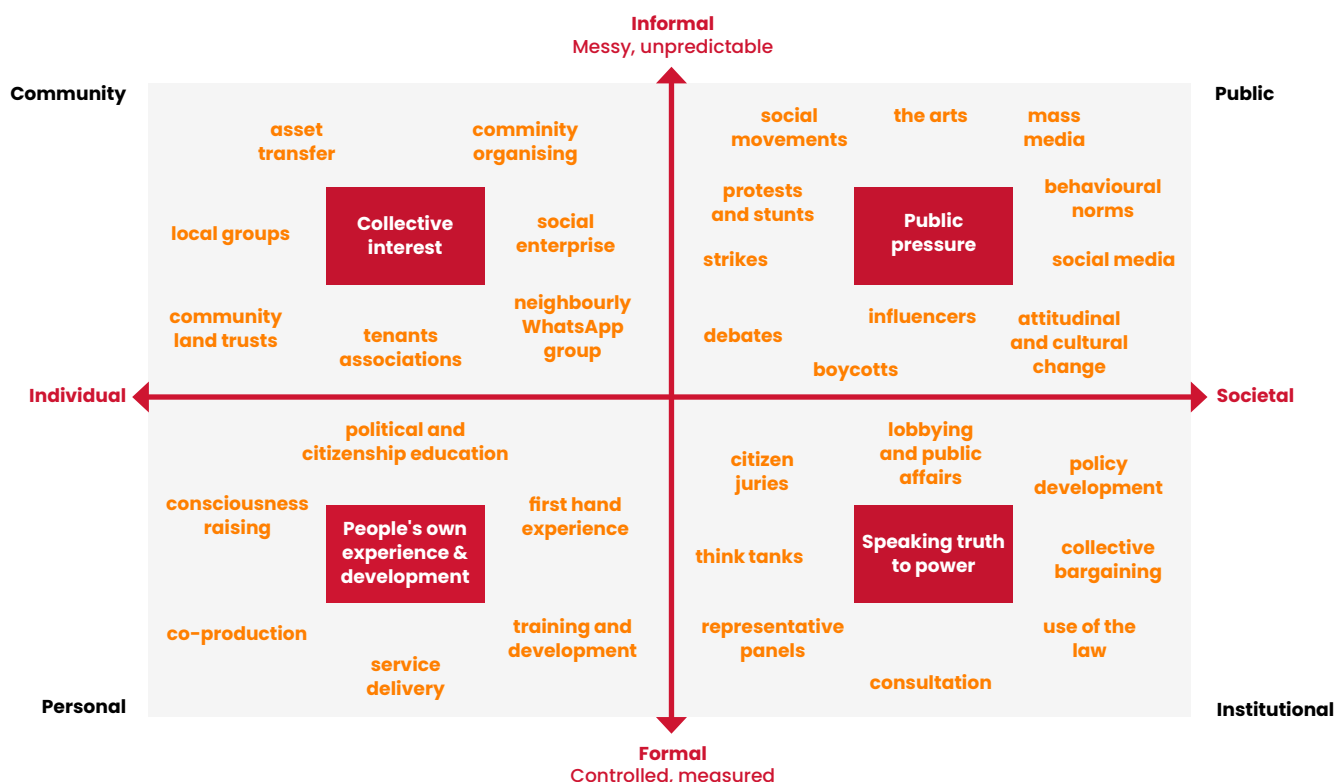


Figure: The Social Change Grid. Credit: [The Sheila McKechnie Foundation](#)

A law change or high-profile win is usually the tip of a campaign iceberg – a visible part of a much bigger picture. The grid can help us get a clearer view of all the activities of a campaign and draw out some insights.

Effective campaigns are rooted in experience

To be ready for success, a campaign needs strong roots. A campaign will often grow from a community organisation which brings the content, alongside connection and credibility. It will work outward from there: into public consciousness through media and coalition-building; into institutional conversations; and back into community and service-level change when laws and policies are won. For example, MEWSO's campaigns on hymenoplasty and virginity testing bans grew from their community work with women.

*A law change or high-profile win is usually the **tip of a campaign iceberg** – a visible part of a much bigger picture.*

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Alternatively, a campaign like Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales might start in the bottom left quadrant, with individuals who feel failed by their experiences with services and systems, moving into community by finding other people who share their desire for change.

And as they grow and professionalise, campaigning organisations may work intentionally to make sure their public-facing campaigning remains rooted in the lived experiences of women directly affected. For example, Surviving Economic Abuse's work with Experts by Experience, or Karma Nirvana's Survivor Ambassador Panel.

Surviving Economic Abuse Ambassadors and survivors Bijna Kotak Dasani and Rebecca Beattie meeting Her Majesty The Queen alongside CEO Sam Smethers



A 'win' is rarely the end

Even when significant policy commitments and legislative progress have been secured, these milestones may be better understood as one step in the process rather than the final destination. Work on the left side of the grid to get wider community buy-in for a change or for service providers to put a new policy into practice are vital parts of campaigning.

*Coming together with other women to tackle a problem is often an **empowering and transformative** experience in itself.*

For example, despite Action on Postpartum Psychosis securing a firm commitment to develop a new Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) at Belfast City Hospital, delivery is still pending in 2026. Similarly, although the work of Karma Nirvana and other organisations has seen the statutory definition of Honour Based Abuse included in legislation, work will be required to ensure public awareness, effective implementation and enforcement to translate the moment into meaningful change.

Legislation isn't the only route to change

Not all campaigns will have the goal of changing policy. Work in communities or supporting individuals to come together or to speak up are also effective ways to change behaviour, attitudes or practice, and improve women's lives.

Voices from the Frontline grants have funded groups to come together to build solidarity and visibility, such as the Muslim Sports Foundation's work to promote Muslim women's participation in sport, or Solace Women's Aid's work with secondary school pupils on peer-on-peer abuse. And the experience of coming together with other women to tackle a problem is often an empowering and transformative experience in itself.

*A grant **unlocks women's capacity**, allowing organisations to show up, build the case, and keep going until the time for change is right.*

Change is not linear

Just as the suffrage movement in Britain spanned many decades, the journeys for the organisations featured in this report were rarely quick or linear. Alliance for Choice had been campaigning for abortion rights in Northern Ireland for more than two decades before decriminalisation became law in 2019. Karma Nirvana had been working on Honour Based Abuse for more than thirty years before their *Push for Change* campaign gained government traction. MEWSO's campaign for a ban on virginity testing took three years of active campaigning. In each case, the Voices grant was not the whole story. It was one critical chapter in a much longer one.

What changes across each chapter is not the commitment of the organisations involved, but the conditions around them: political will, media attention, coalition strength, and the readiness of institutions to act. The role of a campaign, and of the funder who backs it, is to ensure that when the moment comes, the organisation is ready.

“ We used to talk about change happening in quite a linear way, but there are many, many different things you have to do to make change happen. We have to celebrate the interim moments of success even though they're not the end goal. You have made progress for someone else to build on next time. ”

— Anna Jarvis, Head of Grants, Rosa

The Voices from the Frontline fund works with the reality of campaigning by being flexible, accessible, collaborative and bold. A grant doesn't pay for a law change or a policy win. Instead it might be staff time, communications support, coalition-building capacity, or survivor testimony. It unlocks women's capacity, allowing organisations to show up, build the case, and keep going until the time for change is right.

Lessons from the fund



3. Progress is not inevitable: why women's and girls' organisations matter

Every significant advance in women's and girls' rights in the UK has been driven by women and girls who refused to accept things as they were.

In living memory, women could not take out a mortgage without a husband's permission, could not hold credit in their own names, and could be dismissed from employment when they married or became pregnant. The legislation that changed those realities, the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Equality Act 2010, and the protections against pregnancy discrimination that followed, was not given. It was fought for.

“ Equal pay rights and pregnancy protections are specifically set out in law because women fought for those protections over many decades. In some areas we have made remarkable progress. But that progress is not safe. It can be rolled back. Progress is not inevitable. ”

— Penny East, Chief Executive, The Fawcett Society

The organisations that Voices from the Frontline funds continue that tradition. They range from national policy organisations to grassroots community groups serving the most marginalised women and girls, those facing overt and covert discrimination due to race, disability, immigration status, economic hardship, and gender-based violence.

What they have in common is that their work is driven by direct experience of the issues they campaign on, and by relationships

*Their work is driven by **direct experience** of the issues they campaign on, and by relationships of trust with the women they serve.*

of trust with the women they serve. That combination of lived experience and community credibility is what makes them uniquely powerful advocates for change.

They are also, as they have always been, chronically under-resourced.

Most of the organisations in this report are primarily service delivery organisations. That work, the direct support, the casework, the peer groups, the helplines, is where their knowledge of what women and girls need is built. Campaigning is different. It is slower, harder to measure, and inherently uncertain: a campaign can do everything right and still take years before conditions align for change. Funders who need clear outputs within defined timeframes, or who are cautious about reputational risk, are rarely able to back it. The result is a structural gap: the organisations with the deepest understanding of what needs to change are systematically under-resourced to make the case for it where it counts.

The organisations in this report have worked through that gap, with small teams, limited reserves and no guarantee of the next grant. Some are the only organisation of their kind serving their community. Yet they have built coalitions, produced evidence, engaged Parliament, and driven changes in law and policy that benefit millions. The funding landscape does not yet do enough to recognise or resource this kind of work. The evidence in this report makes the case for why it should.

“ Community-led frontline organisations are the ones that will drive systemic change. It concerns us when we hear funders say that supporting frontline organisations is just ‘putting a sticking plaster on the problem.’ These organisations are in the community space that allows them to know what women and girls really need, speak up authentically, and work to ensure changes in systems are turned into real change in women’s lives. Without community organisations, systemic change cannot happen. ”

— Anna Jarvis, Head of Grants, Rosa

The political context in which this report is published makes that work more urgent. Heightened uncertainty and shifting political winds both domestically and globally have placed women's and girls' rights under renewed pressure. Hard-won protections on issues such as reproductive rights or economic equality cannot be assumed to be permanent. This means women's organisations across the UK find themselves needing simultaneously to advance their causes and hold the line against regression. Doing both at once, on constrained budgets, in a difficult fundraising environment, requires exactly the kind of flexible, trust-based funding that Voices from the Frontline was designed to provide.

*The right funding, at the right moment, can unlock the **immense potential** of women and girls.*

This report celebrates that work. It also reveals how change actually happens; through the work of organisations building the networks, evidence, credibility, and coalitions needed to challenge policy, often over years rather than months. And how the right funding, at the right moment, can unlock the immense potential of women and girls.

The team from the Deaf Ethnic Women's Association (DEWA) at their International Women's Day celebration in 2026



Case study

MEWSo: Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation



MEWSo's Voices-funded campaign for bans on virginity testing and hymenoplasty grew from the organisation's work with women and girls from Middle Eastern and North African communities.

Led by women with lived experience of the communities they serve, MEWSo provides advice on domestic violence, welfare, housing and immigration alongside counselling, English classes and community engagement. It received £7,000 through Voices from the Frontline in round five (2021 to 22). It was the beginning of a campaign that would change the law.

The campaign

Before the ban, anyone in the UK could pay £150 for a virginity test and receive a certificate. That certificate could determine whether a young woman was considered eligible for marriage, or whether she faced Honour Based Abuse, imprisonment at home, or enforced return to her country of origin. Medically, there is no scientific evidence that any test can determine whether a woman has had sexual intercourse. The test is based entirely on myth, and it is humiliating, unhygienic, and can cause lasting physical harm.

Alongside virginity testing, hymenoplasty, a surgical procedure to reconstruct the hymen, was being offered in the UK for up to £8,000. Women were being trapped into paying for a procedure to prove something that cannot be proven, just to protect themselves from a test that should never have existed.

MEWSo began by creating the space for survivors to speak.

MEWSo began by creating the space for survivors to speak. “Initially, it was difficult for women and girls to trust us enough to share their stories,” says MEWSo’s Project Manager. “Everything changed when the first woman came forward.” From there, the organisation created a petition, organised a storytelling campaign and held a major conference bringing together MPs, NHS doctors, sister organisations and French campaigners who had already achieved a similar ban in France.

That conference was where MEWSo formally launched its coalition. It submitted evidence to Parliament on the links between failed virginity tests and violence against women and girls, and worked with journalists from The Times, The Sun and Virgin Radio. The BBC approached them to cover survivors’ stories.

“ You cannot record in a funding report how many hours it takes to sit with a survivor and build enough trust for them to speak. Rosa understood that. ”

— Project Manager, MEWSo

The law change

After approximately eighteen months of active campaigning, MEWSo was invited to Parliament to watch virginity testing and hymenoplasty become illegal under the Health and Care Act 2022. “I cannot put that moment into words,” says MEWSo’s Project Manager. “It was a huge achievement.”

“MEWSo had done enough work with this MP that when his Private Member’s Bill came up, it was ready” says Rebecca Gill. “It had coalesced the stakeholders and done the influencing work so it could give this MP the information he needed. He got it through and it became law as part of the Health and Care Act. That is a law change from a tiny organisation with a very distinct group of women who benefit from it.”

What came next

The campaign did not end with the ban. Westminster and Islington councils, NHS hospitals, head teachers, social workers and third-sector organisations are now requesting training. MEWSo has trained over 750 professionals since the ban came into force, delivering at least two training sessions a month. The government now invites them as experts to communicate about the law.

The hidden nature of the practice is one of the reasons why no reliable estimate exists for the number of women and girls at risk in the UK. That invisibility is itself part of what the campaign was fighting. “We always say: without Rosa’s funding, MEWSo would not have been able to lead the campaign to ban virginity testing in the UK,” says MEWSo’s Project Manager.

The ban has not ended the practice entirely. It continues behind closed doors, and families sometimes take daughters abroad during school holidays. “Banning something does not automatically mean it ends. What it does is give people the confidence to report it and give frontline services the framework to act when they do.”

MEWSo is now campaigning on polygamy, drawing directly on the confidence, skills and relationships built through the virginity testing campaign. “We are in a position now where we can spot harmful practices and shine a light on them,” says MEWSo’s Project Manager. “We have gone from a small grassroots organisation to a recognised voice in a policy space that did not exist before we helped create it.”

“Funding pressures increasingly push charities to prioritise service delivery over campaigning, and that is a very sad thing, because it is the campaigning that creates systemic change.”

— Project Manager, MEWSo

*A ban gives people the **confidence** to report it and frontline services the framework to act when they do.*

4. “Rosa saw us”: taking a chance on change

For many of the women’s and girls’ organisations that have received Voices from the Frontline funding, the grant meant more than money.

Many organisations begin with a clear need, a committed group of women, and a genuine understanding of the problem they are trying to solve. What they may lack is access to the networks of people and institutions that can help them. Being backed by a funder like Rosa, with a name and a track record, can provide some credibility and open up those networks.

The Voices application process is intentionally accessible to organisations with limited resources and infrastructure. The impact of a successful application can be transformative beyond the grant itself. For campaigns in early development, Rosa’s support acts as a signal to the sector: that this work is real, that it matters, and that the organisation behind the campaign is worth backing.

“Rosa’s belief in this work buoys the sector. Organisations tell us that it makes them feel seen, and that this is part of the value of what Rosa does. It is not about the amount of money. It is about telling the sector that we see it and that it matters. It gives organisations confidence and the knowledge that it is valued.”

— Anna Jarvis, Head of Grants, Rosa

“ Other funders recognise the Rosa name and it creates a sense of confidence and trust in our charity. It is invaluable to be able to say that we are funded by the Rosa Fund. ”

— 50:50 Parliament

“ Beyond funding, it’s the respect and credibility that comes with the Rosa association that has been truly invaluable. It’s a form of validation that money alone cannot buy. Rosa didn’t just fund a project. It fuelled a movement and gave us the confidence to speak boldly, act bravely, and lead authentically. ”

— Saima Afzal, SAS Rights

*The value of a Voices grant is not purely financial. It is about having a campaign **taken seriously**.*

For BelEve, which works with girls and young women, Rosa’s early investment in its *It Is That Deep* campaign addressing sexual harassment was the starting point for work that has since become central to the organisation. “Rosa was the first funder to back our *It Is That Deep* campaign over six years ago,” it noted in a 2026 Voices grant holders survey, “and that early investment has had a lasting and transformative impact on both our organisation and the wider community.” Since then, the campaign has grown into a structured, evidence-informed programme, and BelEve now trains teachers, safeguarding leads, and youth practitioners across England.

The message that comes through time and again from grant holders is that the value of a Voices grant is not purely financial. It is about having a campaign taken seriously. It is public recognition from the sector that this work deserves support. As Natasha Rattu of Karma Nirvana puts it: “Rosa really have a good understanding of the experiences of organisations like ours that are marginalised in a sector where you have the usual suspects that always get the funding, and it’s not necessarily us.”

Where Rosa is among the earliest funders of a campaign, that foundational moment matters. Not because Rosa claims sole credit for what follows, but because what follows often could not have started without it. The momentum, the credibility, and the confidence that carry an organisation from idea to impact require the kind of early, flexible, trusting support that Voices from the Frontline was designed to provide.

Case study

Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales



Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales (FTWW) campaigning has contributed to significant shifts in Welsh women's health policy.

Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales (FTWW) is a Wales-wide, patient-led network amplifying the voices of women and people registered female at birth, particularly those who are disabled or living with long-term health conditions. Through peer support, campaigning and policy advocacy, FTWW works to achieve health equity across Wales, chairing the Women's Health Wales Coalition, engaging with NHS Wales and the Welsh Government. Rosa's Voices from the Frontline fund awarded FTWW grants in both round four (2019 to 20) and round five (2021 to 22).

The beginning

Voices from the Frontline funding supported organisational and campaigning infrastructure, including a part-time engagement officer and Welsh language translation, something that many funders are hesitant to support despite it being a vital part of raising awareness and addressing inequity. "It meant that someone finally said, yes, this is worthwhile and this should be funded," says Charity Manager Isabel Linton. "That validation matters enormously when you are a small organisation finding your feet."

The fund they had applied to was designed for local communities, and FTWW is a pan-Wales organisation. They made the case that the population of Wales is comparable to Greater Manchester. Rosa listened and awarded the organisation a Voices grant.

Where lasting change begins



Isabel Linton

“ So many funding processes are rigid: if you don’t tick that box, that’s it. The fact that Rosa heard that argument and responded to it was incredible. That support is why we are where we are today. ”

— Isabel Linton, Charity Manager, FTWW

What the funding made possible

One of FTWW’s earliest campaigns addressed the lack of equitable care for endometriosis in North Wales, where there is no dedicated specialist. But FTWW’s work is not only about reproductive health. As Isabel puts it: “Women’s health isn’t just obstetrics, gynaecology and maternity. Women’s health is all health. Things like autoimmune disorders, where 80% of patients are women or assigned female at birth. Heart disease and asthma presenting differently in women. Neurodiversity. We want people to be treated holistically, as a whole person and not just a body part.”

The endometriosis campaign was where that principle first translated into concrete change.

FTWW’s work enabled patients in Wales to be referred to specialist services out of area. Isabel speaks to this personally: “I was one of those patients. I had been struggling with symptoms throughout my teens. I was referred through FTWW’s work and received a straightforward diagnosis that meant I avoided the long-term complications that so often come from years of not knowing what is wrong. FTWW is probably the reason I have a daughter now, because I was able to get the right healthcare at the right time.”

FTWW is also responsible for the Welsh Government commitment to having a dedicated endometriosis nurse in every health board in Wales.

FTWW’s work enabled patients in Wales to be referred to **specialist services** out of area.



A national policy shift

At a broader level, the Women's Health Wales Coalition, which FTWW chairs, published a quality statement that led to NHS Wales commissioning its own women's health survey, which led to the country's first 10-year Women's Health Plan. England and Scotland had equivalent plans, but there was not initially an intention to produce one in Wales, as women's health was considered covered under the general Healthier Wales strategy. The coalition raised this gap, brought all those voices together, and people took notice.

“The goal is to change things permanently. A lot of our members deal with the fact that, had they been diagnosed and treated more effectively earlier in their journey, they wouldn't have become as ill as they are. We can't turn back the clock. But we can make it so that things work better for people in the future.”

— Isabel Linton, FTWW

FTWW staff and members met Wales' First Minister Rhun ap Iorwerth, and Deputy Minister for Social Care, Mental Health and Women's Health Delyth Jewell at the Ministerial Summit for Women's Health in 2026.



5. Staying the course: why systems change takes time

The timescales associated with Voices-funded campaigns demonstrate that change takes time. MEWSO's campaign ran for three years before virginity testing was banned. Karma Nirvana has been working on Honour Based Abuse for more than thirty years. Alliance for Choice campaigned for more than two decades before decriminalisation of abortion became law in Northern Ireland.

These timescales are not exceptional. They are the pace of systemic change.

What the Voices programme offers is a form of funding built around this reality rather than against it. Rosa has supported some grant holders across multiple Voices rounds, meeting them where they were in their campaigns, providing further resource at key junctures, and signalling that the work still matters even when the path is long and winding.

“ Campaigning for things to change can take a very long time. And that's okay. Campaigns shift in shape, size, urgency, who's involved, energy, political will. That's the nature of change. ”

— Rebecca Gill, CEO, Rosa

Where lasting change begins

Investments of time, relationship, and courage do not fit neatly into annual grant reporting cycles.

This long-term approach is unusual in a funding landscape that often demands measurable outputs within defined timeframes. The Voices application process asks organisations what they want to achieve with their funding, not to predict the eventual outcome of a campaign that may take years to complete. This approach demonstrates Rosa's embedded understanding of how change actually works.

It also reflects something important about what campaigning requires of the people doing it. The Survivor Ambassador Panel at Karma Nirvana has taken years to build. The coalition at The Fawcett Society took sustained effort across an entire election cycle. The training and trust-building that underpinned MEWSo's campaign required countless hours that will never appear in a monitoring report. These investments of time, relationship, and courage do not fit neatly into annual grant reporting cycles. But they are the substance of lasting change.

Women's sector representatives met Peers at a House of Lords drop-in event in 2025 to discuss Honour Based Abuse amendments tabled to the Crime and Policing Bill.



Case study

Karma Nirvana



Following years of campaigning, Honour Based Abuse is now defined and recognised in the law.

Established in 1993, Karma Nirvana is the UK's first specialist charity dedicated to supporting those impacted by Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage. Through their Home Office-commissioned helpline, casework and expert training for frontline professionals, the organisation works to end of Honour Based Abuse in the UK. It received £7,000 of Voices from the Frontline funding in round five (2021 to 22) to support their *Push for Change* campaign: a call for a statutory definition of Honour Based Abuse.

Why a definition matters

After more than thirty years of work by Karma Nirvana along with a range of other organisations, there is finally a definition of Honour Based Abuse in law. But why is a definition important? "It makes it really difficult to resolve a problem that people don't have a shared, universal understanding of," says Executive Director Natasha Rattu. Without consistent data, because people use different terms or only think of Honour Based Abuse in its most extreme form, it has been very hard to make the case for resources and change. In family courts, judges have made decisions without truly understanding the dynamics at play.

The scale of the challenge is visible in Karma Nirvana's own helpline data. In 2024–25 the organisation supported 3,079 individual cases, the highest number in their history. The rise in people reaching out tells its own story: need is increasing faster than action. Meanwhile, the Home Office's 2025 figures show that 37% of professionals were not aware of the forced marriage statutory guidance when questioned, highlighting the urgent need for better training and consistent national standards.

*After more than thirty years of work by Karma Nirvana along with a range of other organisations, there is **finally a definition of Honour Based Abuse** in law.*



“ These figures highlight that Honour Based Abuse remains one of the most hidden and complex forms of violence in our society. Every week, our helpline supports victims whose experiences are not reflected in official statistics. It is critical that silence is not mistaken for safety. ”

— Natasha Rattu, Executive Director, Karma Nirvana

The *Push for Change* campaign began in collaboration with University of Nottingham through a survivor-led drafting process: months of work reaching consensus on wording that reflected something deeply individual and unique to each person's experience. Voices funding then enabled Karma Nirvana to convene and energise a survivor ambassador panel, providing resource to shape the campaign from the inside.

“ For survivors of Honour Based Abuse, who are often disowned and ostracised from their communities, being able to bring them together through the funding has given them a renewed sense of community and shared purpose. ”

— Natasha Rattu, Executive Director, Karma Nirvana

Survivors at the heart

The panel currently has around 30 active members. Survivors do not have to share their story if they do not want to. “Their trauma should not be their only currency for having a seat at the table,” Natasha says. The funding has also supported the production of high-quality films of survivors, material that will be used in training and to celebrate the campaign's eventual success long after the definition is through.

Fawziyah Javed, a young woman killed as a victim of Honour Based Abuse, had been failed by professionals who missed the honour context entirely. Her mother Yasmin reached out to Karma Nirvana and was willing for the organisation to use Fawziyah's story to elevate the campaign. “We keep going back to our survivors at every stage to make sure nothing is lost as the definition evolves,” Natasha says.

Progress and the long game

The Crime and Policing Act 2026 introduced a statutory definition of Honour Based Abuse and recognised honour as an aggravating factor in sentencing. As with forced marriage, legal change can only be part of the solution.

*Legal change
can only be part
of the solution...
**training, education
and support** will
continue to be vital.*

The legislation will be followed by statutory guidance setting out clear duties for police, social workers and teachers, directly addressing what Natasha describes as “low professional confidence including race anxiety” among professionals: a reluctance to engage with safeguarding issues affecting particular communities that is, in itself, a form of racism.

Training, education and support will continue to be vital. Alongside the *Push for Change* campaign, Rosa also funded the rollout of Karma Nirvana’s Honour Based Abuse identification tool to more police forces, equipping frontline officers with a practical resource to identify and respond to Honour Based Abuse. Karma Nirvana now trains 5,000 professionals annually. The Identification tool has had 1,179 professional submissions since it was launched.

“ Funding that supports campaigning and influencing can create systemic change, not just helping someone today but changing the landscape so that fewer people face the same situation in the future. That is where the longevity of real change happens. ”

— Natasha Rattu, Executive Director, Karma Nirvana

6. Beyond the grant: ripple effects across the sector

When the grant ends, the impact does not.

Across the programme's six rounds, one of the most consistent findings is that Voices funding creates a positive impact that extends well beyond the grant period and often far beyond the boundaries of the original campaign.

Organisations develop skills, relationships, and confidence that they carry forward. Individuals within the organisations develop their skills, confidence and networks of support.

“ We provide a safe space for people to share their experiences, giving them the opportunity to have their voices heard when they've not been heard before. It reduces the isolation that comes with being disabled and chronically unwell, especially when your symptoms are often considered taboo in nature. Knowing that you are in a compassionate and equitable community, gives members the confidence to get involved in the opportunities offered to them, for example focus groups with health boards, media interviews, or helping to develop policy that will improve their lives at Welsh Government level. ”

— Dee Montague, FTWW

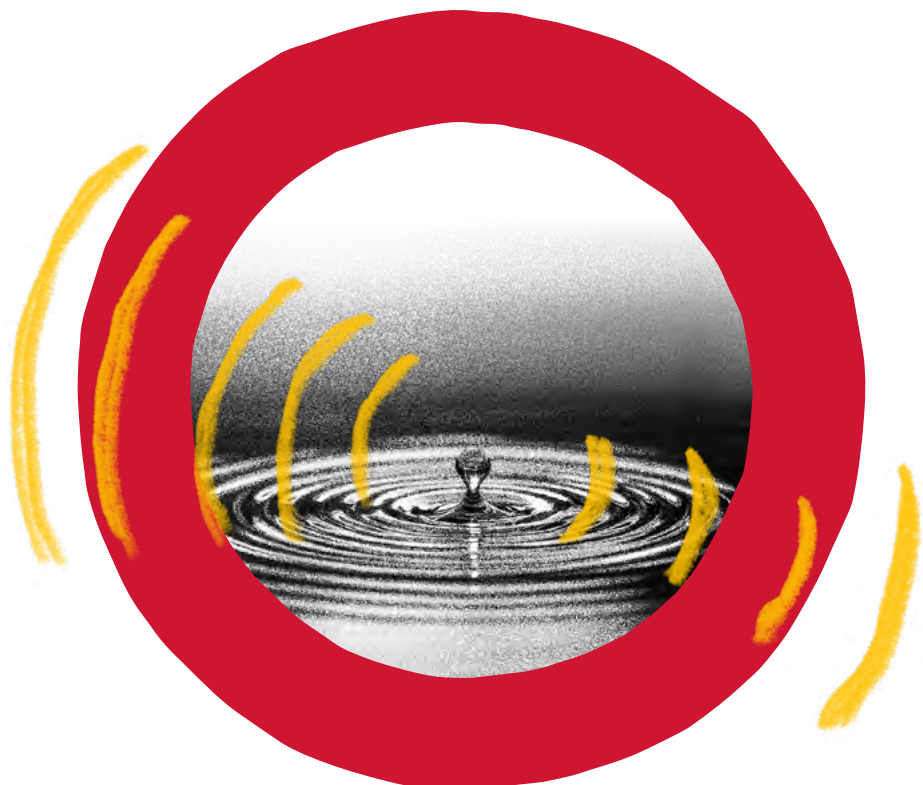
*Organisations and individuals develop **skills, relationships, and confidence** that they carry forward.*

Coalitions formed around one campaign provide the infrastructure for the next. Research and evidence generated for a specific purpose takes on a life of its own, cited in Parliament, used in training and reproduced in policy submissions.

MEWSo, which succeeded in getting a ban on virginity testing included in the Health and Care Act 2022, has since trained over 750 professionals and is now campaigning on polygamy, drawing directly on the confidence, skills and sector relationships built through the original campaign. BelEve's *It Is That Deep* campaign, backed by Rosa more than six years ago, has since grown into a structured national programme training teachers and safeguarding professionals across the country. Rosa's sustained support for Dynamic Support across seven grants has enabled partnerships with job centres, universities and employment programmes that now form the backbone of the organisation's work. SEA and APP built solidarity and support for survivors to speak out.

“ It gives organisations a modest amount of money to turn an idea into something very powerful. We have seen campaigners do that time and time again. ”

— Anna Jarvis, Head of Grants, Rosa



Case study

Surviving Economic Abuse



Experts by Experience were central to SEA's pre-election campaigning. Economic abuse has now been recognised in four government strategies.

Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA) is the only UK charity dedicated to raising awareness of economic abuse as a form of domestic abuse and to transforming responses to it. The organisation campaigns for systemic change in law, policy, and practice, and works directly with survivors to amplify their voices in policy spaces.

SEA was instrumental in securing a legal definition of economic abuse through the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and has since focused on translating that milestone into practice, influencing policy, regulation and guidance across government, financial services, local authorities and frontline services. In 2023 to 24, SEA received £7,000 through round six of Rosa's Voices from the Frontline fund to support a general election campaign co-produced with survivors.

SEA does not deliver frontline services. Its goal is to redesign the legal, financial and public service systems within which economic abuse happens: to close the loopholes that perpetrators exploit and, ultimately, to prevent economic abuse.

“ If we can redesign legal, financial and public service systems so that perpetrators cannot cause this harm in the first place, we can give survivors more independence and choice and ultimately work towards preventing economic abuse for good. ”

— Sara D'Arcy, Head of External Affairs, SEA



Why economic abuse, and why now?

SEA's research shows that economic abuse has affected over four million women in the UK in the last year alone. It covers any situation where a current or ex-partner controls money or economic resources: preventing someone from working, restricting access to a car or phone, controlling spending on food or clothing, taking out debt in someone else's name, or withholding child maintenance after separation. Economic abuse is at the heart of domestic abuse because it is what traps survivors in relationships. Without access to resources, it is almost impossible to leave.

What makes it particularly devastating is that it does not require physical proximity. It often starts, continues, or escalates after separation. Many survivors end up homeless, leave stable jobs, or find themselves in debt with damaged credit scores. Economic abuse featured in over half of the 450 domestic homicide reviews SEA has examined. It is a critical risk factor in domestic homicides and suicides. And it remains chronically under-recognised.

Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA) Ambassador and survivor Natalie Curtis (second from right) at a SEA parliamentary reception with Emma Wardle, Baroness Levitt, Lucy Rigby MP, SEA CEO Sam Smethers and Emily Darlington MP.



Having secured the legal definition, SEA identified the 2024 General Election as a critical juncture to ensure economic abuse remained on the agenda of any incoming government.

Survivors at its heart

SEA has an Experts by Experience group of over 50 survivors. Using the Voices funding, it first surveyed the full group on their policy priorities, then formed a working group of ten members who met monthly for a year to develop a general election manifesto and co-design the campaign. It was intensive work: deep dives into specific policy areas, space for survivors to bring personal experience to bear, and sessions bridging the more technical aspects of policy development for people who had never worked in that space before.

*Some of the working group members were **already activists**. Others had never written to a parliamentary candidate.*

Some of the working group members were already activists. Others had never written to a parliamentary candidate. All of them, from the feedback SEA received, found the experience a positive one. “Because the work was so forward-facing and really focused on delivering change, they found it a positive experience even though they were focusing on a really traumatic period in their lives,” says Head of External Affairs Sara D’Arcy. “They said they had learned a great deal in terms of skills, developed their confidence, and really enjoyed building relationships with other survivors in the working group.”

The campaign tools developed together included a write-to-your-candidate action, briefings to help survivors engage safely with political candidates, and campaign assets designed in response to survivors’ views on how the campaign should look and feel. One of the moments SEA is most proud of was arranging a roundtable with then shadow ministers Alex Davies-Jones and Alex Norris, both now government ministers, where survivors spoke to them directly about economic abuse. “Hearing directly from survivors really helped them understand this form of abuse in a way that policy briefings simply cannot replicate,” Sara says.

*Hearing **directly** from survivors really helped policymakers understand this form of abuse in a way that policy briefings simply cannot replicate.*

What followed

SEA used the co-produced manifesto as their influencing framework with the new government. Within the first six months, SEA met with six different ministers and hosted a parliamentary reception within 100 days of the new government taking office, where survivors engaged directly with ministers and over 20 MPs.

The impact has been substantial. Economic abuse is now recognised in the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls strategy for the first time. It is also recognised in the Financial Inclusion strategy, the Homelessness strategy and the Government Debt Management strategy. Government commitments directly reflect what survivors and SEA called for in the general election manifesto. When SEA fed that back to the Experts by Experience members, it was a genuinely moving moment: they could see the things they had worked on together now reflected in Government commitments.

“ Having that freedom to campaign on these issues is incredibly generous and freeing. It enables us to drive systemic change. ”

— Sara D'Arcy, Head of External Affairs, SEA

7. Holding the line: defending gains in a shifting political landscape

Advancing rights and protecting them are not the same work. But increasingly, women's and girls' organisations are finding themselves having to do both.

Globally, rights won over decades are being challenged and, in some cases, reversed. Reproductive rights, protections against gender-based violence, and the economic rights of women are all under pressure in ways that would have been difficult to imagine ten years ago. The ripple effects of changing global politics and societal attitudes are now being felt in the UK. The organisations best placed to prevent regression are those closest to the communities most affected. They cannot do it without strong coalitions and flexible, collaborative funders willing to back them for the long term.

“Progress is not inevitable. If we allow rights to be rolled back, equality legislation to be scrapped, we will go backwards. It is more crucial than ever that we campaign together.”

— Penny East, Chief Executive, The Fawcett Society

They cannot do it without strong coalitions and **flexible, collaborative funders** willing to back them for the long term.

The campaigns supported by Voices from the Frontline have changed life for the better for women and girls across the UK. But campaigners are under no illusion that those gains are safe. Alliance for Choice won decriminalisation of abortion in Northern Ireland in 2019. Seven years on, access to surgical abortion up to 22 weeks is available, but there is still no adequate public information campaign, and anti-choice organisations

continue to target women seeking help. The win required defending from the moment it was won.

Karma Nirvana has spent more than thirty years building the evidence and political will needed for a statutory definition of Honour Based Abuse. The legislation is now in place, but work remains to raise awareness and ensure it is implemented.

This is the landscape within which The Fawcett Society's *SheVotes24* campaign, supported by Voices from the Frontline funding, was designed: not just to advocate during an election cycle, but to build the coalition infrastructure that will be needed beyond it. To ensure that the next time political conditions shift, the women's sector is ready.

Alliance for Choice at Stormont Assembly on 21st October 2019, the day of decriminalisation



Case study

The Fawcett Society

FAWCETT
SOCIETY



In the run up to the 2024 UK General Election, the *SheVotes24* campaign drew together the largest coalition of women's and girls' organisations ever assembled in the UK.

With a history rooted in the women's suffrage movement, The Fawcett Society is a member-led organisation that combines research, policy and campaigning to advance women's equality. In 2023 to 24, the organisation received £6,479 of Voices from the Frontline funding to support the *SheVotes24* campaign: an effort to bring the entire women's sector together around a shared agenda for the 2024 General Election.



Penny East

“ It is just so fantastic to have a funder that is completely committed to women and girls and is run by people who understand the women's sector... It makes such a difference to the conversations we can have and the openness with which we can have them. Funding for campaigning and policy work is really hard to come by. Rosa understands why it matters. ”

— Penny East, Chief Executive, The Fawcett Society

The largest coalition ever assembled

SheVotes24 brought together 120 women's organisations, the largest coalition of women's and girls' organisations ever assembled in the UK, to highlight the issues women care about most. The campaign surveyed over 2,000 women and used that evidence base to advocate during the election period. The publication of an open letter, based on the survey evidence, gained significant press coverage through Cosmopolitan and

Stylist, reaching women who were not already supporters of Fawcett or any of the 120 organisations. The campaign reached 10.5 million women and girls. Political parties made commitments to making misogyny a hate crime. Women MPs went on record on Women's Hour.

“ We have now brought 120 organisations together, formed those partnerships, found joint messaging, and that is incredibly hard to do. When we come to the next election, we already have that groundwork. We have maintained those relationships. We have done it before. We can do it again, and we need to, more urgently now than ever. ”

— Penny East, Chief Executive, The Fawcett Society

Coalition as infrastructure

*Building a coalition is not a one-off event. It requires **sustained relationship-building**.*

Building a coalition is not a one-off event. It requires sustained relationship-building, the patient work of finding common ground among organisations with different priorities, and the kind of shared evidence base that allows disparate voices to speak as one. The Fawcett Society's approach, surveying women to find the issues they care about most and using that data to identify fundamentals that benefit all women, is replicable. The relationships forged through *SheVotes24* are lasting.

“ The women's sector is made up of lots of tiny organisations, three, four, five, six people, all working on different issues,” says Penny. “Bringing them together is a challenge, but a necessary one. You need to join forces to get cut through. ”

The view from inside

Penny is direct about both the achievements and the limits. The campaign created real political pressure, but not all commitments have yet translated into action. “It is genuinely hard to evidence impact in this space, and it is vulnerable to whoever is in power,” she says. “What I would say is that one of the most important things the Rosa funding achieved is the foundation it laid for the future.”

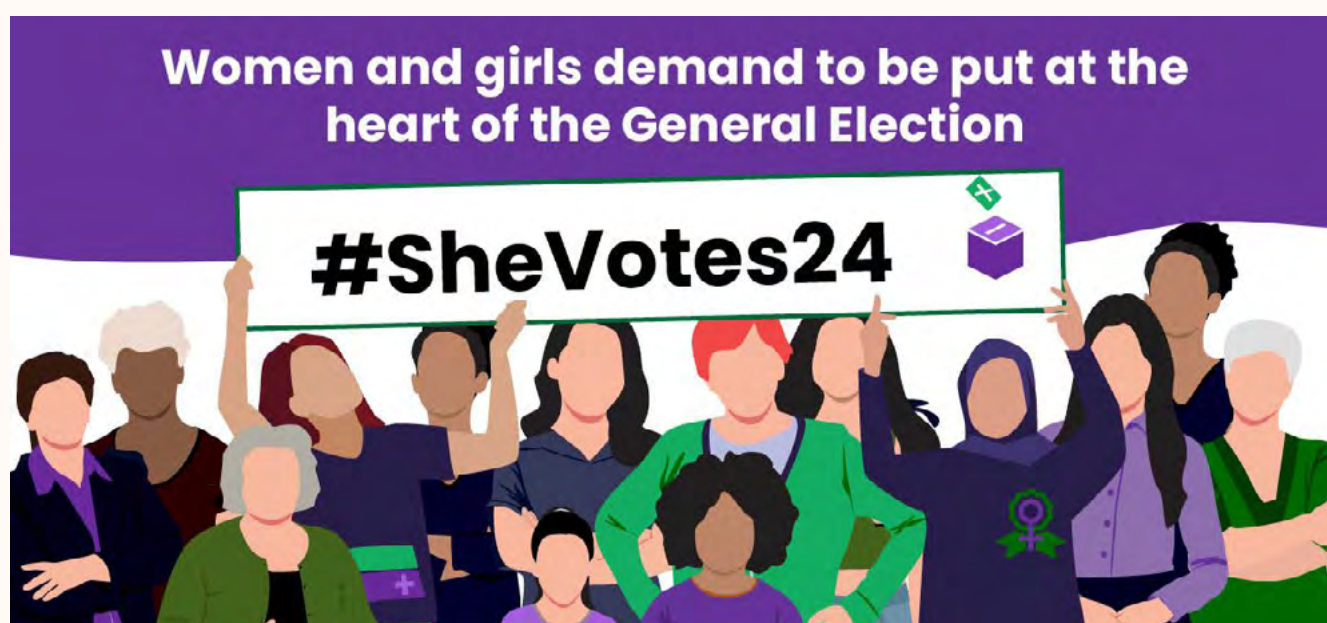
It requires funders willing to back that work, **trusting** that the expertise is there and giving organisations space to use it.

“We are trying to re-prioritise campaigning and public awareness raising rather than always going through traditional policy routes,” Penny continues. “Traditional policy influencing is an exclusionary space. A round table at Westminster is just not an inclusive thing to do. There are a lot of women who do not feel welcome in that space. How do we get policy and campaigning to go to where women are, rather than expecting women to fit into structures that were not built for them?”

The answer, in part, is coalitions. But it also requires funders willing to back that work, not demanding all the answers at the outset but trusting that the expertise is there and giving organisations space to use it.

“Trust the expertise of women-led organisations. Do not expect all the answers at the outset. Campaigning takes time. We are dealing with enormous societal challenges, often on a shoestring. If a funder trusts that an organisation has both the lived experience and the professional expertise and gives it the space to do the work rather than wanting all the solutions set out on day one, that is when real change becomes possible.”

— Penny East, Chief Executive, The Fawcett Society



8. What funders make possible

The organisations in this report have changed laws, shifted policy, built national coalitions and trained thousands of professionals. What made it possible, beyond the commitment and expertise of the organisations themselves, is the existence of funders willing to back this kind of work.

Rosa is itself dependent on funders to make this work possible. The Voices programme has run for ten years because funders have chosen to direct resources through Rosa as a trusted intermediary: an organisation with deep roots in the women and girls sector, the relationships needed to reach the most marginalised organisations, and the expertise to ensure that funding reaches where it is most needed and is applied well. Both of the funders who speak in this section describe that intermediary role as central to why they invest through Rosa rather than directly.

Rosa's approach, flexible, collaborative, accessible, and bold, is central to why funders describe the organisation as a trusted intermediary: one that can reach the grassroots organisations they want to support but could not find or fund directly. That role is visible in how both funders describe their experience of the programme.

For Cummins Inc, a global power leader, and the primary funder of the Voices programme since its earliest rounds, the partnership reflects a clear principle.

“ There are very few partners that can reach grassroots organisations successfully, and especially the most marginalised. Rosa does that brilliantly. In that sense, they’re rare and very special. ”

— Emily Johnson, Global Markets Corporate Responsibility Director, Cummins Inc

A trusted intermediary
that can reach the grassroots organisations they want to support but could not find or fund directly.

Emily also points to an impact that extends beyond the grants themselves. “When Rosa tells the story, or when one of their partners tells the story, we have employees who say, I want to get engaged in that work in my community,” says Emily. “There’s this trickle-on effect that’s really difficult to measure, but we see it happening all the time.”

Jack Bertram began funding Voices from the Frontline in memory of his wife Miranda Bertram, an activist who spent her professional life helping younger women to find their voice and speak out.

“ Rosa finds the organisations that other people can’t find. I’ve sat on two or three Voices panels now, and there’s no way you’d find these organisations as a small funder. Rosa funds women-led organisations on topics that are under-cared about in a really smart and effective way. I’m proud to support their work. ”

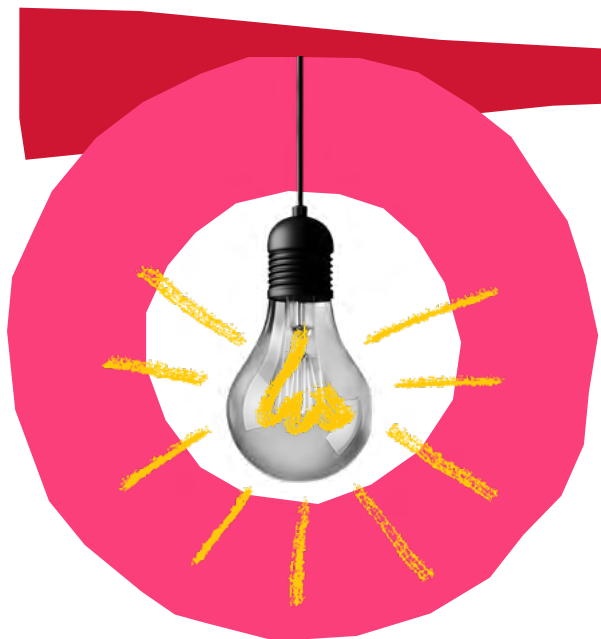
— Jack Bertram, Voices from the Frontline funder

Jack describes the application videos, three-minute films made by women without professional film-making experience, as the most honest form of due diligence he has encountered. “People speaking from the heart about what they want to do, how they want to achieve it, how the money will help. The stories they share are sometimes awful, sometimes inspiring. The impact they hope to create is always inspiring.”

Both funders point to something that is harder to measure than grant outputs but visible nonetheless: the cumulative effect of backing an organisation early, watching it grow, and knowing that what followed began with a decision to say yes.

“ This is a risky business. These are tiny organisations. If the family gets sick, sometimes they fall apart. So not every grant will have impact. But collectively, with Rosa supporting that process, you are making a difference. You need to be very thoughtful about how you choose to fund. But then be a little bit relaxed about what comes back, and trust the process. You’re paying it forward, not asking for an ROI directly on your investment. ”

— Jack Bertram, Voices from the Frontline donor



Conclusion: what the Voices fund tells us

The impact of a Voices from the Frontline grant is often most visible not in the moment it is awarded but years later: in a law passed, a plan launched, a profession retrained, a campaign that began in a community hall and ended in Parliament. The return on that investment is not always linear, and it does not always show up in a final monitoring report. But it is real, and it is cumulative.

Several things account for this. The women's and girls' organisations Rosa funds have deep community expertise. They understand, from lived experience, what needs to change and how to change it. They build evidence with rigour and credibility. They form coalitions that multiply their reach. And they stay in the work for the long term, because they understand that this is the only route to lasting change.

“ If you are serious about funding change in women's and girls' lives, then trusting organisations to do the campaigning that they need to is one of the most effective things that you can do. ”

— Rebecca Gill, CEO, Rosa

*Campaigning is not a luxury category of charitable work. It is among the most **cost-effective** forms of social investment that exists.*

The political context in which this report is published is not a comfortable one. Rights that took decades to secure are under pressure. The funding landscape for campaigning and influencing work, already thin, has grown thinner still. And the organisations best placed to defend and advance women's rights are those least likely to receive the funding they need to do it.

This is a structural problem with a structural solution. Campaigning is not a luxury category of charitable work. It is, as the organisations in this report demonstrate, among the most cost-effective forms of social investment that exists. £708,376 in grants over ten years contributed to at least nine law and policy changes and reached at least 13 million women and girls through the systemic change those campaigns achieved. In the long term, every woman and girl in the UK benefits from a legal and policy framework shaped by organisations like the ones in these pages.

The case for funding campaigning work is not just moral. It is evidential. The evidence is in this report.

Rosa's ask of the funding community is this: look at what small grants and long-term trust have achieved. Ask whether that commitment, to campaign-focused, flexible, accessible funding for women's and girls' organisations, could be replicated, expanded and sustained across the sector. It can. And it must be.

And to the women's and girls' organisations doing this work: apply for a Voices grant from Rosa. Connect, because the coalitions in this report did not build themselves, and the sector is stronger when it moves together. And speak up, because making the case publicly and persistently for change is exactly what the organisations in this report did, and it is what changed the law.

The work continues. So does the fund.

To find out more about Voices from the Frontline or to discuss funding the programme, visit rosauk.org.

Short case studies



Case study: 50:50 Parliament

Encouraging participation in politics with racially-minoritised women

50:50
PARLIAMENT

50:50 Parliament campaigns to achieve equal representation of women in UK politics. Their Voices-funded *Amplifying Muted Voices* project worked with women of colour in the north of England, using lived experience and personal voice as a pathway into political participation.

The project raised awareness, built confidence, and created a pipeline from engagement to action; several women who took part went on to 'sign up to stand' with 50:50 for election.

The work has continued to generate momentum. Women from the programme attended 50:50 Parliament's *Ask Her To Stand* event in Parliament in November 2025, where they heard directly from MPs and councillors including Stella Creasy MP. Their lived experience has fed into 50:50 Parliament's wider work, contributing to the organisation's engagement in national conversations including the Speaker's Conference on the safety of politicians and political candidates, and also advocacy work with the Modernisation and Procedures Committees in the House of Commons. This work helps to ensure that the realities faced by Black and racially minoritised women are reflected in discussions on political safety and culture and is a clear shift from engagement to influence.

The programme has also scaled, with funding secured to deliver further work in Greater Manchester, widening the pipeline of women from marginalised backgrounds interested in standing for public office beyond London and the Southeast. The *Amplifying Muted Voices* Lead, Carol Ann Whitehead, was awarded a Baton Political Figure Award for her work on the project.

“ It made me feel that I mattered, there was a campaign dedicated to me, and the encouragement and knowledge sharing was vital. ”

— A participant in the *Amplifying Muted Voices* programme, 50:50 Parliament

Case study: Action on Postpartum Psychosis

Campaigning for a Mother and Baby Unit in Northern Ireland



Action on Postpartum Psychosis (APP) campaigns for systemic change in how postpartum psychosis, a severe but treatable mental illness, is recognised and treated across the UK.

Their 2023 Voices grant was used to engage a communications specialist in Northern Ireland and support women with lived experience to share their stories safely. APP also established its first Northern Ireland peer support group, an informal space for women who have experienced postpartum psychosis to meet, connect and build the case for change together.

Central to APP's campaigning is a call for more Mother and Baby Units (MBUs) across the UK. These specialist facilities mean that new mothers receive treatment without being separated from their babies. Northern Ireland remains the only part of the UK without one. Women experiencing postpartum psychosis are admitted to general acute psychiatric wards, away from their newborns and without specialist support.

APP's Rosa-funded campaign secured a firm commitment from the Department of Health's Permanent Secretary that a new MBU will be established at Belfast City Hospital. In October 2025, the issue was debated in the Northern Ireland Assembly with cross-party support.

Health Minister Mike Nesbitt said: "A Mother and Baby Unit is not overdue or long overdue: it is long, long overdue." The debate came about as a direct result of APP's peer support volunteer Teresa meeting with Sinn Féin Members of the Legislative Assembly, one of whom was moved by her story and worked to bring the debate forward. In April 2026, the Northern Ireland Health Minister confirmed that a permanent regional MBU will be built at Belfast City Hospital, with £400,000 ringfenced and the aim of opening no later than 2028/29. "We've waited far too long," said Liz Morrison of APP. The campaign, sustained over more than a decade, is near to seeing its goal achieved.

"The Voices from the Frontline grant made a real difference to our work. It definitely turbo-charged our campaign. Without this funding we wouldn't have been able to access the specialist knowledge that allowed us to make such a huge change in Northern Ireland. This isn't the end of our work in Northern Ireland. We need to keep the pressure on."

— Louise Bennett, UK Programme Manager, Action on Postpartum Psychosis

Case study: Alliance for Choice

Abortion access in Northern Ireland



Alliance for Choice is a grassroots reproductive rights organisation that campaigned for decriminalisation of abortion in Northern Ireland for more than two decades. The organisation received Voices from the Frontline funding in both 2019 to 20 and 2021 to 22.

Their route to decriminalisation was painstaking and specific. Alliance for Choice petitioned the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), secured a formal inquiry into Northern Ireland's abortion law in 2016, and insisted that the resulting CEDAW report's wording became the basis for the new legislation, representing the minimum human rights requirements in law. Decriminalisation came in October 2019. Surgical abortion is now available in Northern Ireland up to 22 weeks.

But the win required defending from the moment it was won. There is still no adequate public information campaign, and anti-choice organisations continue to target vulnerable women seeking help, particularly those with English as a second language and young people with little peer experience of accessing services. Rosa's Voices from the Frontline funding enabled Alliance

for Choice to continue this work: sustaining outreach, delivering destigmatisation training with contingency accommodation workers, migrants, and young people at schools, freshers fairs and arts festivals, and developing targeted support for those most likely to be misdirected. Alliance for Choice is now regularly invited to present evidence to the Stormont Health Committee and has been consulted by MPs and peers about how decriminalisation in Northern Ireland might inform reform in England and Wales.

“ This funding was incredible for sustaining our outreach. Many people have come to rely on Alliance for Choice as the place to go for accurate, up-to-date information before, during and after treatment. ”

— Dr Emma Campbell, Co-Convenor,
Alliance for Choice



Case study: Anawim

Speaking up for women and girls in the criminal justice system



Anawim is Birmingham's specialist centre for women, providing trauma and gender-responsive support to women and girls including those at risk of, or involved in, the criminal justice system.

Rosa funded Anawim twice through Voices from the Frontline, in 2017 and 2019, supporting work that the organisation describes as a catalyst for its growth and direction.

Since those grants, Anawim has grown significantly in both reach and influence. The organisation is an active and founding member of the National Women's Justice Coalition, with its CEO chairing the Shared Messaging working group. Alongside partners, Anawim contributed to successful sentencing reform, including the removal of prison sentences of under six months in favour of community resolutions, a presumption against custodial sentencing for pregnant women, and an end to the naming and shaming of those sentenced to community work.

The Rosa-funded work also shaped Anawim's direction with girls. Dedicated resources for girls' services are now being embedded in the organisation's new three-year strategy, and girls are explicitly recognised within its Articles of Association. A pilot programme for girls at risk of criminalisation, transferring Anawim's specialist women's expertise to younger people at the highest risk of harm, is now being delivered.

“ Our Voices-funded work has enabled us to deepen our impact with women and girls, and to influence wider systems, policies and narratives that shape their lives, ensuring their voices continue to drive change well beyond the lifespan of the original grants. We look forward to building on the legacy of our Voices grants by continuously developing our co-design practices with women and girls recognising the power of lived experience in feminist change making. ”

— Nancy Ellis-Day, Trusts and Foundations Manager, Anawim

Case study: Deaf Ethnic Women's Association (DEWA)

Speaking up for racially-minoritised women



Deaf Ethnic Women's Association works with deaf women from minoritised ethnic communities, supporting them to overcome the overlapping inequalities they face.

Their Voices from the Frontline funding was used to raise awareness of deaf women's experiences, particularly those who lack the literacy skills to share their stories through conventional channels. DEWA created safe spaces for women to speak about their lives, reduce anxiety and build confidence. Their stories were captured and shaped into a campaign film that was shared 3,600 times on social media, reaching deaf women and girls internationally. Leadership development became an important strand of the work: when some women did not feel confident to speak for themselves, others stepped forward to articulate on their behalf, a process that built collective strength and revealed the depth of language deprivation many of DEWA's members experience.

The work raised DEWA's profile significantly across the third sector and opened doors to local government, with the organisation developing to a point of influencing local authority decision-making. Their experience illustrates the particular value of Voices funding for organisations working with communities who face multiple, compounding barriers and who are least likely to be heard in mainstream policy spaces.

“ Sharing our message nationally and internationally helps more deaf women and girls to see they're not alone. It also encourages them to bring about change for themselves and others. ”

Case study: Dynamic Support

Building visibility and influence for Black and racially-minoritised women and girls



Dynamic Support in Greater Manchester is an organisation led by and for Black and racially-minoritised women and girls, many of them refugees and women with experience of displacement. Rosa has supported Dynamic Support across seven grants since 2017, one of the most sustained relationships in the Voices programme.

“ Without Rosa, Dynamic Support would not exist. Rosa understands us and speaks our language, just as we understand the women we support. ”

— Yvonne Edouke Riley, Founder

That sustained investment has enabled Dynamic Support to become visible in the truest sense: building the kind of presence and credibility that allows a small, community-rooted organisation to influence how larger institutions engage with the women they serve. Partnerships with Back2Work Manchester and the University of Manchester’s Business School have shifted how those institutions understand and respond to the needs of Black and racially-minoritised women. The organisation’s very existence challenges the assumption that statutory services adequately meet the needs of the communities it serves.



Case study: Fourth Wave Tackling period poverty



Fourth Wave: London Feminist Activists was a grassroots organisation campaigning on issues affecting women and girls.

With their Voices from the Frontline grant, Fourth Wave tackled period poverty among school children, as one of a number of organisations speaking up on this issue. The funding allowed the organisation to build its campaign infrastructure: attending conferences, facilitating meetings with other period poverty activists, connecting with organisations across the sector, and purchasing equipment for petition outreach. Rosa's support gave Fourth Wave the freedom to think ambitiously and campaign without the pressure of financial uncertainty.

The results were significant. A petition calling on the government to provide free sanitary products in schools gathered 134,800 signatures, a powerful collective statement of public concern about an issue that affects young people's education, dignity, and wellbeing every day. In 2020, the Department for Education introduced a free period products scheme for state-maintained schools and colleges.

“As a small grassroots organisation, the grant from Rosa gave us the opportunity to dream and imagine a world without period poverty. We could progress our campaign without stressing about money. None of this would have been possible without it.”



Case study: Maternity Action

Ending charging for NHS maternity care



Maternity Action is the UK's maternity rights charity, dedicated to promoting, protecting and enhancing the rights of all pregnant women, new mothers and their families.

Their 2023 Voices grant supported a campaign to end NHS charges for maternity care.

Every woman in the UK is entitled to NHS maternity care, but complex rules around ordinary residence mean vulnerable women can face bills of thousands of pounds, with some avoiding care altogether and putting themselves and their babies at serious risk. In 2023, in almost a quarter of Maternity Action's cases, women who were entitled to free care had been incorrectly charged.

The funding enabled Maternity Action to produce video content in which women with lived experience of NHS charging told their stories safely and powerfully. The videos have been published online and used in training resources for healthcare professionals. A webinar for over 70 attendees, including midwives, used the films to help frontline workers better advocate for women in their care.

“ We want to see an end to NHS charges for maternity care, and charging more generally. But until that happens, we need to help healthcare professionals and those in charge of NHS trusts understand how charges for maternity care put the lives of women and their babies at risk. Too many funders won't support campaigning. This is why we are particularly grateful to Rosa. ”

— Catherine Pellegrino,
Senior Policy Officer, Maternity Action

Case study: Muslim Sports Foundation

Promoting Muslim women's and girls' sports participation



Muslim Sports Foundation works to ensure Muslim women and girls can access sport and physical activity.

Their Voices from the Frontline funding supported the creation of a promotional film showcasing their All-Star Muslim Women's Basketball team, which was picked up by Reuters TV and the BBC, giving the players a significant national platform and establishing them as ambassadors for their grassroots communities.

Funding enabled investment in a media and communications officer and a stronger social media presence. The work raised the organisation's profile across the third sector and opened doors to local government, with Muslim Sports Foundation developing to a point of influencing local authority decision-making.

“ Muslim women and girls need female sports role models, and they need to be in control of their own narratives. The work we accomplished as a result of the grant helped to raise our profile, developing our organisation to a point of influencing local government authorities. ”



Case study: Pregnant Then Screwed

Campaigning for new flexible working rights



Pregnant Then Screwed is a charity dedicated to ending the systemic discrimination faced by pregnant women and mothers in the workplace.

Voices from the Frontline funding supported the launch of the #FlexForAll campaign, calling for all jobs to be advertised as flexible by default. The funding enabled the organisation to establish the FlexForAll coalition, bringing together organisations including the TUC, Fatherhood Institute, Young Women's Trust and Gingerbread. The coalition drove 7,933 responses to the government's consultation on flexible working and supported a ten-minute rule bill in Parliament. The petition gathered 31,000 signatures. Flexible working was included in the Conservative Party manifesto and raised in the Queen's Speech. The organisation worked with Tulip Siddiq MP to advance legislative change, and their work has been cited in Parliament many times since.

“ We were one of the early funders of Pregnant Then Screwed for two or three rounds of Voices. And then it caught the public's attention, changed the status quo and successfully changed the law. ”

— Rebecca Gill, CEO, Rosa



Case study: Sandwell African Women Association (SAWA)

Building individual and community influence



Sandwell African Women Association is a grassroots, women-led organisation in the West Midlands supporting Black and minoritised women, many with lived experience of migration, displacement and gender-based inequality. Their Voices from the Frontline funding created space for women to speak openly, organise collectively and influence change in their communities.

“ Rosa’s trust and flexible approach allowed women with lived experience to lead the conversation, shape solutions and be recognised as experts in their own lives. ”

— Motuke Katanda, Coordinator, SAWA

Since the grant, SAWA has continued to build on that foundation. Stronger partnerships with local voluntary organisations, community groups and statutory services have deepened the organisation’s reach and influence, particularly around women’s wellbeing, social inclusion and access to support. Women involved in the funded work have gone on to support others, co-facilitate sessions, and speak up in community forums and consultations, a shift from recipients of support to active agents of change.



Case study: Solace Women's Aid

Working with young women to tackle peer on peer abuse

solace

Solace Women's Aid is a London-based organisation supporting women and girls affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. Their Voices from the Frontline grant funded the Young Changemakers programme, working with a group of ten young women in a secondary school to create a peer-led campaign on peer-on-peer abuse.

The films, webinar and resource toolkit developed through the programme have been embedded as permanent resources on Solace's website and shared widely, reaching over 5,600 people and achieving higher-than-average engagement across social media. The Haringey Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) commissioner shared the materials across all primary and secondary schools in the London borough. A webinar drew more than 170 sign-ups, with over 60 attending live.

Young boys involved in Solace's Protect Our Women programme were inspired by the films to develop their own educational materials on healthy relationships, consent and harmful stereotypes for younger year groups. Solace also referenced the project findings in their response to the national Healthy Relationships and Sex Education consultation

alongside other VAWG organisations. The partnership with Rank&File, which supported the Rosa-funded work, has since led to a new collaboration: Intersectional Voices, a survivor-led performance project platforming women pushed into homelessness through structural inequalities.

“ Do not suffer in silence. Speak up and talk to trusted adults who can help you. ”

— Young women involved in the Young Changemakers programme

Appendix: numbers methodology

This appendix sets out the methodology underpinning the headline figure of at least 13 million women and girls reached through the law and policy changes that Voices-funded organisations contributed to.

What the figure includes

The 13 million figure is a conservative, non-overlapping estimate. It draws on self-reported figures from grant holders and publicly available population data. Three campaign wins are included:

1. *SheVotes24* (The Fawcett Society): 10.5 million women and girls. This is The Fawcett Society's own reported figure for the reach of the campaign, which brought together 120 women's organisations around a shared general election agenda. It is the largest population in the calculation and is used as the anchor figure.
2. Decriminalisation of abortion in Northern Ireland (Alliance for Choice): approximately 980,000 women and girls. This figure represents the female population of Northern Ireland, which is directly affected by the change in the law to which Alliance for Choice contributed through more than two decades of campaigning.

3. The Welsh Women's Health Plan and related health equity wins (Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales): approximately 1.6 million women in Wales. This figure represents the female population of Wales which is directly affected by the health equity work FTWW has contributed to, including the dedicated endometriosis nurse in every Welsh health board and the 10-year Women's Health Plan.

Total: at least 13,080,000, presented as at least 13 million.

What the figure excludes, and why

MEWSo and the ban on virginity testing and hymenoplasty: No reliable estimate exists for the number of women and girls at risk in the UK. MEWSo confirmed in April 2026 that no official figure exists and that the hidden and underreported nature of the practice is itself part of the case for the law. Including a UK-wide population figure would both overstate the reach and obscure the specific communities the ban was designed to protect. MEWSo's campaign is represented in this report through the reach of their professional training work instead.

Pregnant Then Screwed and flexible working rights: The flexible working reforms benefit the entire UK working population. This

Where lasting change begins

figure is excluded because the campaign had many contributors beyond Rosa's grant, and because including a UK-wide workforce figure would overlap substantially with other populations already counted.

Action on Postpartum Psychosis: Women in Northern Ireland are already included within the Alliance for Choice figure and are not double counted.

Surviving Economic Abuse and the VAWG strategy: SEA's influence on the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy and three other national strategies reaches women across England and Wales. This population is excluded because SEA's influence was one of several contributions to those strategies and a precise figure cannot be responsibly attributed to the Rosa-funded campaign alone.

All 35 million women and girls in the UK benefit in the long term from the systemic changes secured by Voices-funded organisations, through safer workplaces, stronger rights, more responsive healthcare, and a legal and policy framework that better reflects their needs. The 13 million figure is a floor, not a ceiling.





Rosa Fund, c/o Sayer Vincent,
110 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0TG

Charity number: 1124856

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