

# Women's ASYLUM NEWS

Refugee Women's Resource Project - Asylum Aid - Issue 25 Sep 2002

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**New RWRP report on Refugee Women and Domestic Violence** At the end of this month RWRP is publishing Part 3 of its ongoing report, *Refugee Women and Domestic Violence: Country Studies*. The aim of the report is to provide legal practitioners with evidence to assist women asylum seekers fleeing domestic violence to gain protection under the Refugee Convention or on Human Rights grounds.

**This instalment includes country reports on the situation for women experiencing domestic violence in India, Iraqi Kurdistan, Kosovo and Nigeria which we summarise below. Each study considers the overall context of women's human rights, the law relating to domestic violence, the reality of available protection, and the situation that might face a woman forced to return to her country of origin. Also included are updates on the country reports issued in the first two installments - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran and Pakistan.**

**Lack of enforcement the main obstacle for protection of women in India** India's Constitution and other legislation prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. Despite this, the situation remains harsh for women,

**Asylum Aid/RWRP seeks a caseworker for new HIV Project with Positively Women: see below p. 4 for full details**

with women of lower castes facing double discrimination. The main obstacle to the protection of women's rights in India is not lack of legislation but lack of enforcement.

The lower social status that women have is reflected in marriage, divorce, custody rights and inheritance rights and in traditional practices such as son preference. Strong patriarchal traditions persist shaping the lives of women of all religions. In most Indian families, a daughter is viewed as a liability, and she is conditioned to believe that she is inferior and subordinate to men.

Domestic violence is common and a serious problem. In two surveys of 100,000 women released during 2000, more than half of the women acknowledged being physically abused. Marital rape is not recognized as a criminal offence. The stigma attached to admitting abuse and fear of reprisal restrain many women from reaching out for help. Police are often reluctant to arrest rapists or to register complaints of domestic violence, and reports document cases of rape by police officers of women in custody.

Dowry - a real financial burden to the parents of a bride - is one of the roots of discrimination and violence against women in India. Every day in India fifteen women are murdered by their new husbands or in-laws for failing to bring a sufficient dowry to the marriage.

**Patriarchal attitudes among the judiciary are a major obstacle to women's access to justice. In a 1996 study, 48% of judges interviewed believed that there were certain occasions when it was justifiable for a husband to slap his wife. 74% believed that the preservation of the family should be the woman's primary concern, even if she faces violence.**

(See also our section 'UK Caselaw': **'Fallen women' from rural India recognized as a social group**, p. 4)

**Patriarchal dominance persists in Iraqi Kurdistan** Kurdish society, in spite of considerable progress toward political modernisation, continues to hold onto the traditional, patriarchal relations of domination where women's rights are regulated by a complex web of cultures, religion, and nationalist practices. These regulations include moral regulations as well as women's rights of divorce, marriage, inheritance, and custody.

**Domestic violence is prevalent but underreported. Most attention is paid by activists and commentators to the particular form of violence known as 'honour killing'. A woman may be killed for exerting her will, for choosing a man to marry that the family has not selected – or of whom they disapprove – for having a love affair or sexual relationship, or for joining a political party. Punitory killings are carried out by a woman's father, husband, brothers or other male relatives. According to research, more than 4,000**

**women have been killed since 1991. That means honour killing is a daily occurrence in Iraqi Kurdistan, a Kurdish-controlled area of northern Iraq run by two separate Kurdish administrations.**

In 2000, one of the ruling parties issued two resolutions aimed at revoking Iraqi law, which does not criminalise honour killing. It remains to be seen whether this new legislation will be enforced.

Protection and respect of women's rights is unlikely to be a priority in a country badly hit by the UN-imposed sanctions and an internal blockade from the Government of Iraq. 20% of the population is living in extreme poverty, and a further 40% in poverty, according to World Food Programme indicators. The sanctions and ration regime has undermined and distorted markets and livelihoods and destroyed normal economic life for the vast majority.

**Kosovan judicial system characterised by a lack of gender equality** Women in Kosovo remain especially vulnerable to human rights violations in terms of domestic violence, sexual slavery, trafficking, prostitution and vulnerability to eviction from their homes.

Violence against women is widespread in Kosovo which has been under the interim administration of the United Nations (UNMIK) since June 1999. Power is currently being transferred to the new independent government. The combination of ethnic cleansing, war, and then the governance of Kosovo by an international force has fractured a tight-knit society.

Women are under-represented in Kosovo's economy, occupying only an estimated 30% of all jobs in the marketplace where

unemployment rate is estimated at 60%. Economic participation levels are lowest for women in rural areas, where they comprise some 21% of the rural workforce. In recent years the province has also suffered a nearly complete breakdown in its public health infrastructure, which is reflected in the health status of the Kosovo people. Basic health indicators are among the worst in Europe: Kosovo has the worst maternal mortality rate.

**The law is incomplete in addressing both domestic violence and sexual crimes. There are no governmental agencies dedicated to coping with family violence and a lack of social assistance. Several domestic and international NGO's exist to assist women, but they are constrained by a tradition of silence about domestic violence, sexual abuse, and rape, and there are very few shelters. In Kosovo's traditionally male-dominated society, domestic abuse of women is culturally acceptable.**

**The Kosovan judicial system is characterized by a lack of gender equality. Reports also highlight the biased attitude of some of the judges and prosecutors towards women who have experienced sexual violence and the lack of victim advocacy. Survivors of violence within the family, both women and children, are left without a remedy or protection. Consequently, women are often placed in the position where it is necessary to return to homes in which criminal conduct is further perpetrated against them.**

**Nigerian rural women most vulnerable to abuse** Nigeria has made progress since its transition from a military to a democratic administration in 1999. However, the reality of the position of

women within society remains discriminatory.

Trafficking, domestic violence, inadequate health care, the application of Sharia (Islamic) law, vigilante groups, customary practices such as *kulle* (or *Purdah*, meaning wife seclusion), female genital mutilation and widowhood rituals are amongst the oppressive factors facing some Nigerian women. Those living in rural areas are most acutely affected.

**Nigeria's Penal Code permits a husband to use physical means to 'correct' or 'chastise' his wife as long as it does not result in 'grievous bodily harm'. Much stigma surrounds domestic violence in Nigeria, and this prevents women from seeking protection.**

**The police attitude towards victims of domestic violence is largely ambivalent. Police may refuse to record a complaint, considering domestic violence to be a private family matter.**

In areas of Northern Nigeria the practice of *kulle* or wife seclusion is common amongst the Hausa. Under *kulle* women are often house bound or restricted to going out only on domestic errands or with the explicit permission of husbands.

Sharia is now applied to both Muslims and Christians in some areas of Nigeria. Its implementation violates international law to which Nigeria is signatory, and has posed particular problems for women victims of sexual offenses, who may be charged with adultery and subjected to punishments such as flogging and death by stoning (see below the case of Amina Lawal, p. 6). A woman in Zamfara State who was raped was sentenced to stoning while the men concerned were acquitted. With no legal representation and unable to provide

enough witnesses, the fact that she became pregnant as a result of the rape was deemed proof of her being guilty of having sex outside marriage.

The new report, which illustrates the universality of women's rights abuses in four different continents, will be available, along with the first 2 editions, from RWRP's office and on our website from October.

**Asylum Aid recruits for a Caseworker re: HIV Project** Working in partnership with Positively Women - the leading national registered charity offering peer support to women with HIV - we are launching a much-needed Community Fund backed service, that integrates expert legal advice with effective peer support for women who are seeking asylum and who are HIV positive.

We are seeking an immigration caseworker to provide advice, casework support and representation to HIV positive women refugees and asylum seekers, to make written representations and present appeals, in close cooperation with Positively Women's Direct Services Co-coordinator to ensure the effective delivery of the service.

We need someone who can maintain Asylum Aid's high standards of legal advice and representation, who, ideally, has experience of presenting appeals and who has a good understanding of the issues facing women who are both seeking asylum and living with HIV. This post is open to women only: section 7(2)(e) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 applies (Salary: £23,000 p.a.).

For details and application forms, send an SAE (A4, 57p stamps), quoting reference HIV, to: Personnel, Asylum Aid, 28

Commercial St, London E1 6LS, or download the material from [www.asylumaid.org.uk](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk). Please do not telephone, email or send a CV (closing date for completed applications: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September; interviews will start during the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> October).

**UK Caselaw: 'Fallen women' from rural India recognized as a social group**. The old fashioned term, 'Fallen women', has been resurrected by an immigration appeal adjudicator to describe a 'social group' within the context of the landmark decision in Shah and Islam. Women who have committed adultery have been identified as a particular social group in the light of the social cultural and religious mores in rural India.

**Usefully, the tribunal also found the woman could not live in another part of India because she would be destitute, without accommodation, without housing and no one to turn to. The appeal (Balvir Kaur and SSHD UKIAT03387 2 August 2002) was allowed but the tribunal described the circumstances as 'exceptional'.**

Her case was that she had committed adultery while in the UK resulting in the birth of her child, Karan. She is from a simple rural background. If she returned to her home area she would be ostracised by the community, and more to the point, would be at risk from her father and family members. She would not be able to look to the Indian authorities for protection as they rarely involved themselves in domestic disputes and, in any event, her position would be aggravated by the fact the police would be even less inclined to protect her because her husband was a suspected terrorist. Although India is a very large country, it would not be possible to expect

her to relocate because she would be returned to a situation where she would be destitute. Both she and her son would suffer unduly.

**The tribunal accepted the adjudicator's findings that the political background of her husband was not a relevant factor due to a change of circumstances in India but accepted there were considerable risks to the woman if she were returned. She was ill educated and from a rural background where traditional values are at their strongest. She would be ostracised by her husband's family and probably by her own family. The tribunal accepted objective evidence on the perceived role of women and their relationships with their husbands and were satisfied there was a real risk that she would face reprisals from her husband.**

**On the issue of state protection the SSHD submitted that the Indian criminal courts were open to all and would provide protection. In general terms the Tribunal accepted this but looking at the specific situation faced by the woman in rural area of the Punjab where wife beating was a problem; there was domestic violence in the context of dowry disputes; police were reluctant to intervene in family disputes and crime may be ignored if the perpetrators were influential.**

Objective evidence considered included reports from Dr Purna Sen from the London School of Economics; an opinion from Professor Patricia Jeffrey from the Department of Sociology at the University of Edinburgh; and a letter from Southall Black Sisters.

**Update: CPS drops charges against woman asylum seeker with false documents** Following our report in Women's Asylum News last month, RWRP was informed that charges for attempting to travel with false documents have been lifted by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) against a young Liberian woman finally released from Holloway Prison by Isleworth Crown Court last month. The woman was arrested and charged whilst attempting to travel onto Canada to claim asylum using a false passport.

On the Notice of Continuance, lifting the current criminal proceedings, the CPS state: *'For the avoidance of any doubt I do not consider your client was afforded protection under Article 31 and would have vigorously asserted such at the hearing'*. The CPS go on to explain that the charges were lifted on the basis of the length of time our client had already spent in custody, her personal circumstances and *'likely disposal.'*

**Clearly the CPS are intent on continuing to pursue criminal charges against asylum seekers who travel or attempt to travel on false documents in direct contravention of undertakings given in the case of ADIMI.**

**The Refugee Women's Resource Project is vigorously pursuing a clarification of Home Office policy on this issue through a number of different channels including directly with the Home Office Minister, Beverly Hughes.**

**UNHCR have written to the CPS asking why they are contravening undertakings given in the case of ADIMI not to prosecute asylum seekers who travel on false documents. In the meantime our information is that charges continue to be brought and that asylum seekers continue to be advised by criminal**

**solicitors to plead guilty. Others, faced with the prospect of criminal charges, 'voluntary depart'.**

We are currently seeking a meeting with all interested parties to decide how to pursue this matter through other means, which may include litigation against the Home Office for false imprisonment.

## **International News**

**Zimbabwean women victims of politically-motivated rapes** On August 25, The Sunday Telegraph reported that girls as young as 12 were being 'gang-raped by police and self-styled war veterans' or 'forcibly held as sexual concubines' by President Mugabe's youth militia as part of a campaign described by human rights activist as 'systematic political cleansing'. According to the newspaper, the girls are also subjected to other forms of torture in revenge for their parents refusing to support the governing party.

**The rapes - which take place in 'rape camps' in rural areas - were reported by the Amani Trust based in Harare who is compiling video evidence in the hope of bringing President Mugabe to trial at the International Court of Human Rights. The medical director of the Amani Trust also told IRIN, the United Nations Integrated Regional Information Networks, of men being forced to witness sexual violence.**

The Zimbabwean police denied the press reports but IRIN was told by the Amani Trust that women who came to seek help had three separate initial consultations, with a forensic nurse, a medical doctor and a counsellor and that their stories were

consistent. When the cases are reported to police, 'nothing really happen[s]'.

Sources: Sunday Telegraph, 'Revealed: Mugabe's rape camps', 25 August 2002 and IRIN, 'Police deny report of politically-motivated rapes', 27 August 2002.

## **Death by stoning upheld by the Nigerian Funta Sharia Court of Appeal whilst pregnant woman given stay in Cyprus**

Amina Lawal has lost her appeal against her death sentence (see WAN No. 24). The Foreign Office has expressed deep concern at the Nigerian court's decision to dismiss Lawal's appeal against death by stoning for adultery. (full story at: <http://www.fco.gov.uk>)

In Cyprus, a seven-months pregnant Nigerian student was released from prison and given temporary stay in Nicosia after she applied for asylum fearing death by stoning if returned to Nigeria for having a child out of wedlock. The young woman flew to Ireland when her student visa expired, using false documents, in the belief that if her child were born there she would get automatic Irish citizenship. Under normal circumstances the Nigerian would be deported, but the Cypriot authorities took into consideration the fact that she might face the death penalty if returned to Nigeria and said deportation was never an 'option' (Source: AFP, Nicosia, 21 August 2002 at [www.lafeminite.com](http://www.lafeminite.com)).

**Swiss judge first woman to be nominated for a position at the ICC** In early September Switzerland proposed Barbara Ott as a candidate for the position of judge at the International Criminal Court. She previously worked as a military judge and served for 6 months as an expert at the International Criminal Tribunal for

Rwanda. She was then promoted to military examining magistrate in which capacity she led several investigations in connection with the genocide in Rwanda. She was also responsible for the development of the witness and victim protection program (so crucial for women witnesses, see below) when the first trial of a perpetrator of genocide in Rwanda was held in Switzerland.

The first election of the ICC 18 judges will take place in February 2003. The ICC election ballot will be organized so that votes must be cast for a minimum number of candidates by gender and from each UN regional group (3 from Africa, 2 from Asia, 2 from Eastern Europe, 3 from western Europe and 3 from Latin America.)

Source: [www.iccnw.org/html/new.html](http://www.iccnw.org/html/new.html)

**Widows for Peace and Reconstruction report abuse of women at Rwanda War Crimes Tribunal** Margaret Owen of Widows for Peace and Reconstruction, writing to the human rights professionals' mailing list reports appalling human rights abuses against women testifying in legal proceedings at the international tribunal.

**During her fact finding mission to Rwanda Owen found that defense lawyers were degrading and discrediting women who were testifying. Many women have no legal representation and have been forced to undergo unscrupulous and obscene cross-examination by the defense. There has been no witness protection for these women, which goes against the rules of the tribunal. As a result many of these women, mostly widows of the genocide are routinely subject to intimidation and violence, even death at the hands of the families accused, on return to their villages.**

**Women witnesses told Owen of how they had been sexually molested by male court officials during preparatory interviews. Some female witnesses have been murdered for testifying. Despite this, court judges have failed to take action to prevent and punish the copying of confidential court transcripts back to the communities where the widows live.**

Source: letter by Margaret Owen, Widows for Peace and Reconstruction, 36 Faroe Rd, London W14 0EP to Human Rights Professionals mailing list which can be subscribed to by emailing:

[hr-professionals-subscribe@derechos.net](mailto:hr-professionals-subscribe@derechos.net)

### **Pakistan and Turkey declare human trafficking a criminal offence**

**In Pakistan, a law which has been introduced to 'effectively control human trafficking from and through Pakistan' addresses the smuggling of women abroad for prostitution and children for camel racing (many are smuggled into the Arab states of the Gulf for this purpose) and sexual abuse. It also imposes stricter penalties for members of organized criminal groups with fines and jail terms ranging from seven to ten years. According to human rights activists, hundreds of economically deprived Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan women are trafficked into Pakistan for prostitution each year whilst young girls are sold into sexual slavery (Source: AFP, Islamabad, 29 August 2002).**

Anti-Slavery International also reports that the new Article 201/b of the Turkish Penal Code states that those who '*kidnap (...), transfer from one place to another and house individuals with the intention of making them work or serve by force, threaten (...), use force or coercion to*

*persuade them to give up their bodily organs, use undue influence, secure their consent by deception or by exploiting the desperation of such individuals shall be sentenced to five to ten years imprisonment and a heavy fine* (one billion liras). The penalties will be doubled if the crime is committed by organized criminals. At the same time the government in Bulgaria approved in August a Bill on combating human trafficking that provides for the formation of a National Anti-Human Trafficking Committee (source: [m.kay@antislavery.org](mailto:m.kay@antislavery.org)). See also related information under 'Events/Projects' below.

## Events/Notices

**Launch of BID report** Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) welcomes you to the launch of their new report to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on **19<sup>th</sup> September 6.30-9.00pm**. The report **Arbitrary Detention in the UK** sets out concerns about the use of immigration detention in the UK.

**This event will bring together activists, organisations and interested individuals to discuss recent changes in detention policy and UN recommendations and examine how arbitrary detention can be challenged.**

Venue: Room G79, Kings College, The Franklin-Wilkins Building, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8WA. To reserve a place contact BID, 28 Commercial St, London E1 6LS, Tel: 020 7247 3590. Full details at: [www.biduk.org](http://www.biduk.org)

**Westminster Domestic Violence Forum 'Schools Domestic Violence Prevention Pack'** is to be launched on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 10am – 12.30pm (including buffet lunch). It is an innovative new pack for schools addressing why schools benefit

from teaching domestic violence prevention skills to their pupils. Guest speakers include journalist and presenter Anna Raeburn.

Venue: The Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith St, London, SW1. Please contact Rachel Carter for details at [Rachel.Carter@london.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.Carter@london.gov.uk) or tel: 020 7983 5772

**Anti-Slavery public launch of 'Human Traffic, Human Rights: Redefining Victim Protection'**, on 24 October 2002 from 3-5pm at: Bridewell Hall, St Bride Institute, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, London, EC4Y 8EQ (underground stations: Blackfriars, St Paul). The report is the result of two years of research on measures taken to protect adult victims of trafficking in *inter alia* Colombia, Nigeria, Poland, Thailand, Ukraine, as well as the United Kingdom and other Western countries.

Looking at good and bad policies and practices, the report makes 45 recommendations on a wide range of issues. Speakers for the launch come from Poland, Thailand, Belgium and the United States and a panel discussion will include participants from the 10 countries covered by the research. For attendance and details, please contact Elaine Pearson or Alice Peycke at [e.pearson@antislavery.org](mailto:e.pearson@antislavery.org) or tel: 020 7501 8921.

Also: Anti-Slavery e-campaign with online petition at [www.stophumantrafficking.org](http://www.stophumantrafficking.org).

**HOME: London Refugee Housing Conference** This one day conference offers asylum seekers and refugees, refugee community organisations, housing providers, advice agencies and



other interested parties the opportunity to explore the housing needs of asylum seekers and refugees in London. The Conference has been organised by a group of refugee and housing organisations. It takes place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 10am-5pm at City Hall, The Queens Walk, London, SE1 2AA.

Please contact Sue Lukes on 020 7359 1455 [sue.lukes@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.lukes@btinternet.com) for information on conference content or Yesim Guzelpinar for enquiries about mailing list, organisation and stalls on 020 7458 1174 [LHRC@hact.org.uk](mailto:LHRC@hact.org.uk)

## Publications/Resources

UNHCR (The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) has released a document, '*Refugee Women*', in which it urges States to make asylum procedures available to women victims of trafficking. The full document can be found on the following website (in PDF) at: [www.unhcr.ch/prexcom/standocs/english/gc02\\_8e.pdf](http://www.unhcr.ch/prexcom/standocs/english/gc02_8e.pdf)

'*25 Questions and Answers on Health and Human Rights*' is a WHO publication by Helena Nygren-Krug (2002) that aims to assist in developing a human rights approach to public health work. This includes paying attention to the most vulnerable population groups (children, minorities, refugees, the elderly, disabled people, etc.) using a gender perspective. Data are thus analysed to detect discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion or health status.

Hard copies can be ordered from Ms A. Peters at [petersa@who.int](mailto:petersa@who.int) or tel: 00 41 22 791 2882, fax: 00 41 22 791 4726.

The People's Movement for Human Rights Education has produced a **human rights workbook for women: 'Passport for Dignity'**. It offers experiences and reflection of how to use the human rights framework as a tool for systemic analysis with a gender perspective on a multitude of women's issues and shares experiences of and guidance for action towards economic and social transformation.

All details re: table of contents and how to order the book at: [www.pdhre.org/passport.html](http://www.pdhre.org/passport.html)

'*Women's Rights Violations During the Conflict in DRC*', a report by the Association for the Rebirth of Human Rights in Congo, highlights the endemic abuse of women in DRC between the years 1998 – 2001. Drawing on reports by local and international organisations, the document examines the general situation of women in DRC as well as violence against women, in particular the situation of women during the war.

**It describes graphically the horrific abuses of a war 'fought out of sight'<sup>1</sup> and provides a list of killings and massacres of women and other forms of abuse such as mass rape, torture, deliberate infection with HIV, sexual slavery and forced prostitution. It also describes the situation of women active in social organisations. The authors view Congolese women as promoters of peace and argue that it is paramount that they be represented in negotiations for peace.**

<sup>1</sup> Barbara Crossette, 'Atrocities against women widespread in Congo' in *Women's e News* online at <http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/1014/context/archive>

Translated by the International Centre for Human Rights & Democratic Development in Montreal, the report can be found at:

<http://www.ichrdd.ca/frame00e.html>.

**Study of Arab societies says women are denied advancement politically, legally and socially**

The study commissioned by the United Nations was written by an advisory team of Arab experts in which women were represented and participated at all stages of the report writing which covers 22 countries.

**It concludes that Arab women 'suffer from unequal citizenship and legal entitlements, often evident in voting rights and legal codes. The utilization of Arab women's capabilities through political and economic participation remains the lowest in the world in quantitative terms, as evidenced by the very low share of women in parliaments, cabinets, and the work force and in the trend towards the feminization of unemployment'.**

Gender bias is found in labour markets, including gender-based occupational segregation and unequal returns on education. Two thirds of the 65 million adult illiterate Arabs are women in societies where illiteracy rates are higher than in much poorer countries.

**According to the authors, discrimination is found in the form of sexism and ageism as a result of patriarchal dominance and is worst when the two biases overlap - in the case of young females.**

**The report also notes that a third of all the countries that have not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) are eight Arab countries (out of 22 Arab countries). Overall it concludes that 'women remain severely marginalized in Arab political systems**

**and broadly discriminated against in both law and custom'.**

Whilst 'some countries are already taking positive steps to increase aspects of [gender] participation, others are moving slowly, if at all'. The study, which calls for measures to reduce or eliminate customary and legal discrimination, is available at: [www.undp.org/rbas/ahdr/CompleteEnglish.pdf](http://www.undp.org/rbas/ahdr/CompleteEnglish.pdf))

**'Making Human Rights Real: A Legal Literacy Program for Women in Morocco'**

is a new training manual for Moroccan women in Arabic developed in partnership with 14 Moroccan women's rights organizations and development associations. It contains nine thematic modules including women's human rights in the family, the rights to freedom from violence and participation in public life. The manual in Arabic is available at [www.hrlawgroup.org](http://www.hrlawgroup.org) and a summary version in English can be found at: [www.hrlawgroup.org/country\\_programs/morocco/legal\\_literacy\\_manual.asp](http://www.hrlawgroup.org/country_programs/morocco/legal_literacy_manual.asp)

**'Bodies across borders - prostitution and trafficking in women'**

The Nordic institute for women' studies and gender research (NIKK) has dedicated the latest edition of its magazine to the issue of trafficking of women and girls. The magazine is available in Pdf at:

[www.nikk.uio.no/publikationer/magasin/mag20021.pdf](http://www.nikk.uio.no/publikationer/magasin/mag20021.pdf). For free subscription to the NIKK magazine, please sign up at: [www.nikk.uio.no/publikationer/bestill\\_e.htm](http://www.nikk.uio.no/publikationer/bestill_e.htm)

The **International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS)** is an international, comparative survey specifically designed to address domestic

violence and sexual assault against women. The objective of the IVAWS project is to assess the level of victimisation of women in a number of countries worldwide and to provide novel inputs for the development of specific criminal justice approaches to this problem.

**The project's plan is to collect statistical information on the extent and content of violence against women in Argentina, Estonia, Indonesia, Philippines, FR Yugoslavia (Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia), South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ukraine. The primary goal of the project is to assist these countries to develop and implement victimisation surveys on violence against women as an important research and policy tool as well as a measure for awareness-raising on violence against women issues.**

Amongst many other objectives, the project aims at improving police practices in dealing with cases of violence against women, by revealing the extent of unreported crimes and exploring the level of satisfaction with the police and their response; it also aims at developing expertise and technical knowledge at the local level on survey design, interviewing on sensitive topics, analysis and interpretation of victimisation survey data.

For further information contact Dr. Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Expert, Crime Prevention – UNICRI, Viale Maestri del Lavoro, 10 - 10127 Turin, Italy. Tel: 00 39 011 65371-11 - fax 00 39 011 631 3368 or email [alvazzi@unicri.it](mailto:alvazzi@unicri.it).

**New Asylum and Immigration website under development** There is a new web site under development at [www.aio.org.uk](http://www.aio.org.uk) combining the resources of [www.asylumsupport.info](http://www.asylumsupport.info), [www.immigrationindex.org](http://www.immigrationindex.org) and

[www.immigrationnews.org](http://www.immigrationnews.org). From September the links directory will be available via: [www.aio.org.uk/links.htm](http://www.aio.org.uk/links.htm) If you have any resources you would like to access or find on this new site please contact: Frank Corrigan, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3XX email: [frank@aio.org.uk](mailto:frank@aio.org.uk)

The **new improved Electronic Immigration Network website** (still at: [www.ein.org.uk](http://www.ein.org.uk)) will enable members to search and access the entire ICCID country information database, store selected information in a personal archive and create a ready-to-print bundle, in addition to the caselaw database and legal resources. For example, factsheets produced by the Immigration Asylum Appeal on Strasbourg jurisprudence re: Articles 3 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (with a list of cases and a summary of contents and findings), can be found at: [www.ein.org.uk/eineggs/echr3.htm](http://www.ein.org.uk/eineggs/echr3.htm) and [www.ein.org.uk/eineggs/echr8.htm](http://www.ein.org.uk/eineggs/echr8.htm).

**'We are here because you were there' CD-ROM** The first educational CD-ROM dealing with immigration and Asylum has been designed for GCSE level students and above. It has video and audio interviews with asylum seekers, and expert witnesses explain why people flee from the economic and political conditions caused by globalisation. With sections on how to set up campaigns to support asylum seekers, and resource and web links it can be used by campaigning groups, schools and development educationalists as a valuable introduction to the issues. Order the CD-Rom by sending a cheque for £13.50 made payable to Virtual Migrants Association, c/o Black Labrador Basement, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS. Alternatively you can obtain an order form

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by emailing: [info@virtualmigrants.com](mailto:info@virtualmigrants.com).

# women's ASYLUM NEWS

Produced by RWRP (for more details on information in this issue, contact Sophia Ceneda) at Asylum Aid, 28 Commercial Street London E1 6LS Tel: 020 7377 5123 Fax: 020 7247 7789 Email: [sophiac@asylumaid.org.uk](mailto:sophiac@asylumaid.org.uk) Website: [www.asylumaid.org.uk](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk)

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**Asylum Aid** provides free advice and legal representation to asylum seekers and refugees, and campaigns for their rights. Registered as a charity no. 328729  
Please fill in and send us the form below if you would like to join or make a donation.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to join **ASYLUM AID** as a:

Standard Member	(£25.00 p.a.)
Unwaged Member	(£10.00 p.a.)
Affiliated Group	(£100.00 p.a.)

I also wish to make a donation of: £ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make all cheques payable to **ASYLUM AID***

## GIFT AID DECLARATION

*From April 2000, Asylum Aid can recover the basic tax paid on any donation and increase the value of your gift by up to a third. If you are a taxpayer and would like to take advantage of this Gift Aid scheme, please tick below.*

? **Please treat all donations made on or after the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Remember to notify us if you no longer pay an amount of income tax equivalent to the tax we reclaim on your donations (currently 28p for every £1 you give).*

## BANKER'S ORDER FORM

*Make your money go further by paying by Standing Order. This reduces the bank charges we pay and the amount of time we spend on administration - money and time which should go towards helping refugees.*

To: The Manager, \_\_\_\_\_ Bank  
(Address of Bank) \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay **ASYLUM AID** the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ each month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate) until further notice and debit my Account no: \_\_\_\_\_ Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_ starting on (date): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

[FOR OFFICE USE ONLY] To: National Westminster Bank plc, PO Box 3AW, 104 Tottenham Court Road, London W1A 3AW. Sort Code: 56-00-31, account no. 63401711