

SUNDIAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION ON HARMFUL PRACTICES Annual Review For year ended 31st March 2025 - Charity number 1161597

Executive Summary

This year, we were delighted to officially launch our new name, Sundial Centre for Education on Harmful Practices and our new website. Our name reflects our mission and values - just as sundials guide people by casting light and fostering awareness, our charity strives to bring understanding and visibility to important issues that are often overlooked.

Our dedicated team brings together diverse backgrounds, languages and expertise to drive our mission forward. We ensure that people from affected communities remain at the forefront of all our activities. Their lived experience shapes our work, reinforcing our commitment to impactful and inclusive solutions. We don't have a "face" of the organisation - we have many. We're proud to be a diverse team where no one person 'holds the mic' all the time and where decisions are made together.

Our charity's educational workshops continue to reach schools, universities, professionals and communities across the Thames Valley, the West Midlands and Croydon, this year reaching 4404 participants. Our wide range of workshops on harmful practices and abuse issues includes No Recourse to Public Funds and Domestic Abuse, Transnational Marriage Abandonment, Working with Families with Spiritual Beliefs, Online Imagery and Social Media Safeguarding, FGM, and Forced Marriage. We were delighted to welcome to our team Rashmi Lokapure, our new Lead Trainer, who brings considerable training expertise. We continue to deliver "frontline education" for community groups, providing culturally sensitive learning on healthy relationships. This year we created a wellbeing workshop series for Syrian Sisters, delivered in partnership with the group organiser, Nuha Abdo. We have also reached community groups through our Web Cafe Project, with 'in person' discussions on "honour and shame" in Shona, Mandinka and Wolof, Swahili, Tetum and Arabic, as well as online discussions on barriers to reporting harmful practices and abuse in diverse communities.

In addition, we have reached diverse communities through new work in the migration space. We provided education on healthy relationships and harmful practices at an Oxfordshire hotel for 95 residents seeking asylum, including young people and children, in Albanian, Punjabi, Arabic, Kurdish Sorani, English, Spanish, Urdu and Persian. We delivered safeguarding training on FGM for the Small Boats Operational Command in Dover.

Finally, we continue to support frontline domestic abuse services through our Diverse Worlds group, now covering Thames Valley and Hampshire, and raise awareness of helplines through our annual campaign, with postcards sent to every school in the Thames Valley and Birmingham. We hope you will join our workshops and share our resources widely to help end harmful practices and support survivors.

Thank you for your support, The Sundial Team.

Education on harmful practices

Our charity delivers lessons and workshops for schools, universities, professionals and community groups in the South East and the West Midlands, always with a facilitator from an affected community, who brings lived experience to learning. We also now offer online workshops for the public. Evaluation of our training consistently demonstrates that participants gain greater knowledge and confidence in tackling harmful practices following our workshops.

We have reached audiences totalling over 4404 participants in the last year!

Our audiences included 402 school and teaching staff, 88 primary students and 2236 secondary students! We delivered 11 safeguarding workshops and 72 school lessons.

Sundial also delivered 32 sessions to a diverse range of 968 other stakeholders, including independent groups, healthcare professionals, youth workers, specialist charity workers and volunteers, VAWG professionals, police service members, local authority staff and community groups.

We worked with over 177 attendees across 19 community group workshops.

Finally, through our contributions to five different regional conferences, public events and open webinars we also communicated with more than 600 individuals.





Schools and organisations reached





- Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Border Force UK
- Botley School
- Didcot Girls' School
- Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance, Oxfordshire
- Family Solutions Service, Oxfordshire
- Hardwick Primary School
- Harris Garrard Academy
- Headington School
- James Elliman Academy
- Knowledge Exchange Group
- Lordswood Boys' School
- Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy
- Marsh Gibbon Church of England School
- Meadow Vale Primary School
- Montem Academy
- North Oxfordshire Academy
- Nottinghamshire Women's Aid
- One Eighty
- Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

- Oxford High School
- Oxford Spires Academy
- Oxfordshire Emergency Duty Team
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Oxfordshire Social Services Looked After Children Team
- Oxfordshire Specialist Health Nurses
- Public Policy Exchange Group
- SAFE!
- Slough and Eton CofE Business and Enterprise College
- Sunrise Multicultural Project
- The Hazeley Academy
- University of Kent Centre for Child Protection
- Victims First
- Waddesdon Village Primary School
- Wantage CE Primary School
- Western House Academy
- Wexham Court Primary School
- Wokingham Borough Council

Conferences and working group presentations

- Oxford Brookes University's VAWG conference- FGM, HBA and forced marriage
- Diverse Worlds (previously Oxfordshire Diverse Communities Working Group)
- Sundial Public workshops on HBA, Transnational Marriage Abandonment, No Recourse to Public Funds, FGM, Spiritual Abuse
- Sundial in partnership with Survivor Space Survivor Purdah
- Crown Prosecution Service Barriers to Reporting 'Honour' Based Abuse
- University of Birmingham BAFGM Talking about FGM in the classroom
- Knowledge Exchange Group 'Honour' Based Abuse in the UK
- Public Policy Exchange Group FGM
- Oxfordshire County Council Intersectionality
- · Centre for Child Protection FGM
- Border Force UK Small Boats Operational Team - FGM
- SAFE! Online Imagery and 'Honour' Based Abuse



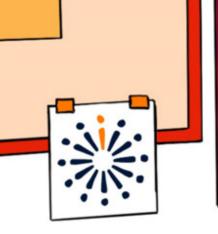


Web Cafes

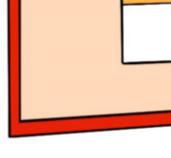
Our regular series of Web Cafes provide a safe, informal online space for communities and professionals to meet, share learning and provide mutual support on sensitive topics. This year we ran 10 Web Cafes, including 5 online workshops on Barriers to Reporting 'honour'-based abuse in South Asian communities, community-based abuse in African communities, FGM, and sexual violence and domestic abuse in diverse communities.

We also worked in partnership with community groups to deliver in-person discussions on 'honour'-based abuse in Shona (online), Mandinka and Wolof, Swahili, Arabic and Tetum. We are grateful to partner organisations, Project Salama, the Gambian Oxford Women Society, AFiUK, Iraqi Women Art and War Group and the East Timor Women and Children Community Group for their partnership in this series.





Book SUNDIAL FOR SPECIALIST LESSONS AND TRAINING ON FGM AND FORCED MARRIAGE





Awareness-raising

Our 2025 postcard campaign raised awareness of harmful practices, including FGM, 'honour'-based abuse and forced marriage. The postcards were sent to 2348 schools across the Thames Valley and Birmingham and included helpline numbers for the NSPCC FGM helpline, Karma Nirvana's 'Honour' abuse helpline, the Forced Marriage Unit, Childline and emergency services, as well as encouraging schools to book our workshops to help protect children from harm. We offer state schools workshops free of charge.

The postcards depicted artwork we commissioned from Roshi Rouzbehani, an Iranian illustrator known for her powerful imagery tackling issues such as gender equality, women's rights and honour.

New initiatives in the migration sector

Asylum Hotel

We created and delivered 'Culture Explorer' workshops to support families residing at an Oxfordshire hotel awaiting the outcome of their asylum claims. Our 3-hour workshops covered issues of culture, values, beliefs and interactions, gender roles, the role of community, healthy relationships, consent, harmful practices and support services. We delivered 10 workshops for 95 residents, including young people and children, in multiple languages including Albanian, Punjabi, Arabic, Kurdish Sorani, English, Spanish, Urdu and Persian, as well as a workshop for staff and volunteers.

Participant responses showed a significant increase in understanding of issues such as consent, where to obtain support and the role of police and social care. Our facilitators' sensitivity and interest in the residents' culture scored very highly and many residents reached support they did not know was available. All the workshops were co-facilitated by people with lived experience of the asylum seeking or immigration system.

A thousand thank yous for your help. It is so good to be able to find angels like you with a big heart and availability to 'serve' the people around you! Feedback from a resident.



Training for the Border Agency

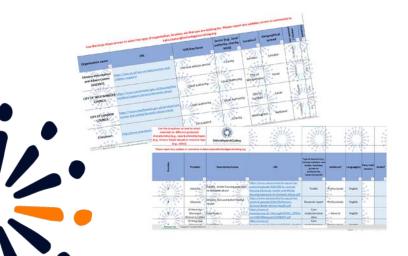
Our team delivered safeguarding training on FGM for the Small Boats Operational Command in Dover, during their 2 day safeguarding conference. The training helped increase understanding and awareness of the indicators of FGM and reached over 140 delegates.



We have had cases, I think, of people disclosing that they've left countries because the girls have come of age for FGM, and they don't want it to happen to them. So that's why the basis of why they've left home and have made it to the UK...Now staff know how they feel about it, the fact that they made this journey in the first place, and your session has made them more confident to have that conversation and be able to address the issue head on."

> "Since the session, a lot of staff have looked at the various different resources that [your facilitators] recommended, and are more informed, because they've wanted to sort of follow up on that information, looking at the map of where it's prevalent and, you know, sort of learning the different names for FGM and things like that. There's been a lot of, you know, a lot of engagement from it.

Supporting an intersectional approach to tackling abuse



We continue to lead the multi-agency group, Diverse Worlds, which has now merged with Diverse Communities Working Group in Berkshire, that also covered Surrey Heath, North East Hampshire and Farnham and our membership is now open to services and agencies across these areas and the Thames Valley.

This year we carried out a 'mini research project', with interviews and questionnaires completed by professionals involved in the 2020 Thames Valley "BAMER" Project, to review the implementation of the recommendations from the project and current gaps in support for women from diverse communities suffering abuse. We continue to maintain a Resources Bank, a free, downloadable toolkit with an evolving list of web resources to support work on types of domestic abuse and harmful practices. The resources can be sorted and selected according to protected characteristics, language and topic.



Image: Syrian Sisters discussing wellbeing and the challenges and benefits of parenting between cultures

Frontline education programme

We were delighted to partner with Syrian Sisters, to deliver a series of four Wellbeing Workshops, covering issues including culture and mental health; healthy children; healthy relationships; and healthy self-esteem. We are grateful to Nuha Abdo, Syrian Sisters' Founder, and co-facilitator/interpreter for the workshops. The participants reported that the series "was well facilitated and gave them space to talk" and included guidance on navigating cultural differences and tensions that inevitably arise during transition to life in the UK, where social structures are more individualised and can lead to isolation.

Going the extra mile...



In addition to a packed calendar of training, awareness-raising and education events, Sundial is a member and contributor to:

• Birmingham Against FGM, plus their Resources, Education and Zero Tolerance Day subgroups

- Birmingham PCC Hidden Harms group
- Oxfordshire SVEN (Sexual Violence and Exploitation Network)
- The Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (OxDAP)
- The Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Group
- · Home Office's Anti-FGM Stakeholder Group and VAWG Stakeholder meeting
- Harmful Practices Operational Group in London



Our Team

- Kate Agha CEO
- Dr Kate Clayton-Hathway Director of Research and Evaluation
- Dot Pritchard Operations Manager
- Vania Martins Domestic Abuse Specialist and Coordinator
- Rashmi Lokapure Lead Trainer
- Alexis Hawthorne Bookings Coordinator and Research Assistant
- Tanya Vyas Social Media Communications Consultant
- Kaddy Touray Key Activist and Anti-FGM Facilitator
- Rubie Marie Ambassador and Anti-HBA Facilitator
- Mariama Sallah Anti-FGM Facilitator
- Emma Woods Body Image Facilitator
- Babs Ceesay Anti-FGM Facilitator
- Fatou Ceesay Anti-FGM Facilitator
- Jhon Reyes Body Image and Pornography Facilitator
- Monica Majumdar Colourism Expert
- Sobia Afridi Web Cafe Facilitator
- Sabrena Afridi Facilitator

- Keisy Lin Fong Body Image Facilitator
- Zahid Bhatti Anti-HBA Facilitator
- Naseem Sarbattta-Walia Anti-HBA Facilitator
- Moram Nafaa Anti-FGM Facilitator
- Dr Nesreen Yanni Anti-FGM Facilitator

Our Trustees

- Dr Leethen Bartholomew (Chair)
- Caroline Pinder (retired from Chair role Dec 24)
- Liz Parry (retired from Co-Chair role Dec 24)
- Dr Sharon Dixon
- Miranda Dobson
- Richard Coleman
- Seiza Bashir
- Ahd Hassan





How to donate



Please support us in helping prevent FGM and forced marriage and support survivors living in the Thames Valley and Birmingham. Every donation we receive makes a significant contribution towards continuing our work. Our overheads are minimal as we do not have office space. You can therefore be reassured that your donation will directly contribute to our work to tackle harmful practices.

You can donate to Sundial Centre for Education on Harmful Practices:

- Online via our website: https://www.sundialcentre.org/donate/
- Make a single donation by bank transfer, or set up a regular donation by standing order Account name: Sundial Centre for Education on Harmful Practices Account number: 33389952 Sort code: 20-97-48

For more information visit our website: www.sundialcentre.org

Our supporters













west midlands police and crime commissioner









