



PRESS RELEASE

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Charities Join Forces to Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence

Three domestic violence charities, Refuge, Broken Rainbow and Norwich based Leeway Women's Aid, are working in partnership to raise awareness of support services available to victims, including lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered (LGBT) people, and to raise awareness of the issues to the corporate, private, statutory and third sectors.

The charities, which are all supported with funding from The Nationwide Foundation, are receiving an additional £50,000 from the funder to support the innovative project which is being led by Broken Rainbow, a charity which supports LGBT victims. Rita Hirani, consultant at Broken Rainbow, said, "The project will employ a training and marketing consultant to work with the three partners to deliver a training pack on each charity's work. Each charity will also be given the skills to deliver this training to other professionals working with victims to help improve the support they offer as well as training between the three charities themselves. This will enable all groups trained to signpost beneficiaries more effectively and have a better understanding of what support services each charity has to offer. In particular, it will promote the very specific needs of LGBT victims who can be doubly isolated by domestic violence if they have not 'come out' to families and friends, thus making it even harder for them to seek support."

Lisa Parker, CEO of the Nationwide Foundation, said, "This is an excellent and innovative project and a true example of how rewarding and benefiting partnership working can be. When barriers are broken and the beneficiaries are put first positive change and support can be given to those who need it most. The project is one of a number that has followed two years of sharing ideas with domestic violence charities on how they could work together. Effective partnership working is not easy and needs sustained funding to encourage relationship building as well as to support the resultant projects. The Nationwide Foundation was prepared to invest in this work because of the untapped benefits that partnerships can achieve, such as this."

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Editor's notes

The Nationwide Foundation is a registered charity (no.1065552) which makes donations to registered charities and is funded principally by contributions from the Nationwide Building Society. It is a separate legal entity from the Society and is run by an independent board of trustees.

The three charities are being supported through a grant programme called the Investor Programme. It offers support to 18 charities under three funding themes – domestic violence, prisoners' families and young offenders. Support is offered for core development and project work over three years totalling £150,000 per charity. £750,000 has additionally been set aside to support any partnership activities identified by the charities which have added benefits to the causes.

Broken Rainbow LGBT Domestic Violence Service (UK) is a registered charity (no. 1103624)

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For more information on Refuge: <http://www.refuge.org.uk>

For more information on Leeway Norwich Women's Aid: <http://www.leewaynwa.org.uk>