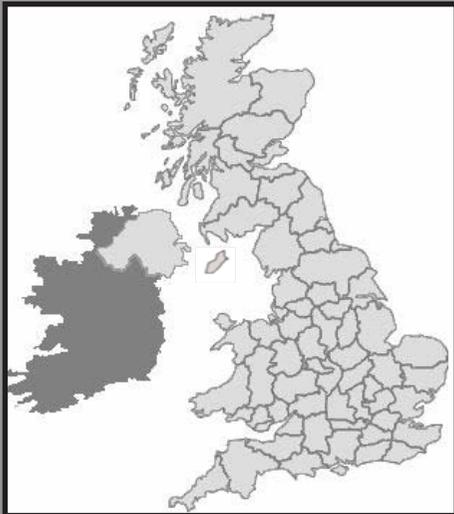


# Soroptimist International in the UK

There are over 250 clubs right across the UK.  
From Easter Ross in the north of Scotland,  
to the islands of Jersey and Guernsey in the south.  
And from Enniskillen, in Northern Ireland,  
to Great Yarmouth in the east.



All are working in a variety of ways to  
combat Violence Against Women

Soroptimist International is a  
worldwide organisation for women in  
management and professions, working  
through service projects to advance  
human rights and the status of women.

# UK

Programme  
Action  
Committee

## How to contact us

To find out more about our work across the country  
visit the UKPAC website:

[ukpac.org.uk](http://ukpac.org.uk)

or email us at [info@ukpac.org.uk](mailto:info@ukpac.org.uk)



Information on our Federation of 30 countries  
can be found on its website:

[sigbi.org](http://sigbi.org)

or for information about the work of  
Soroptimists around the world, visit the  
international website at:

[www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org)



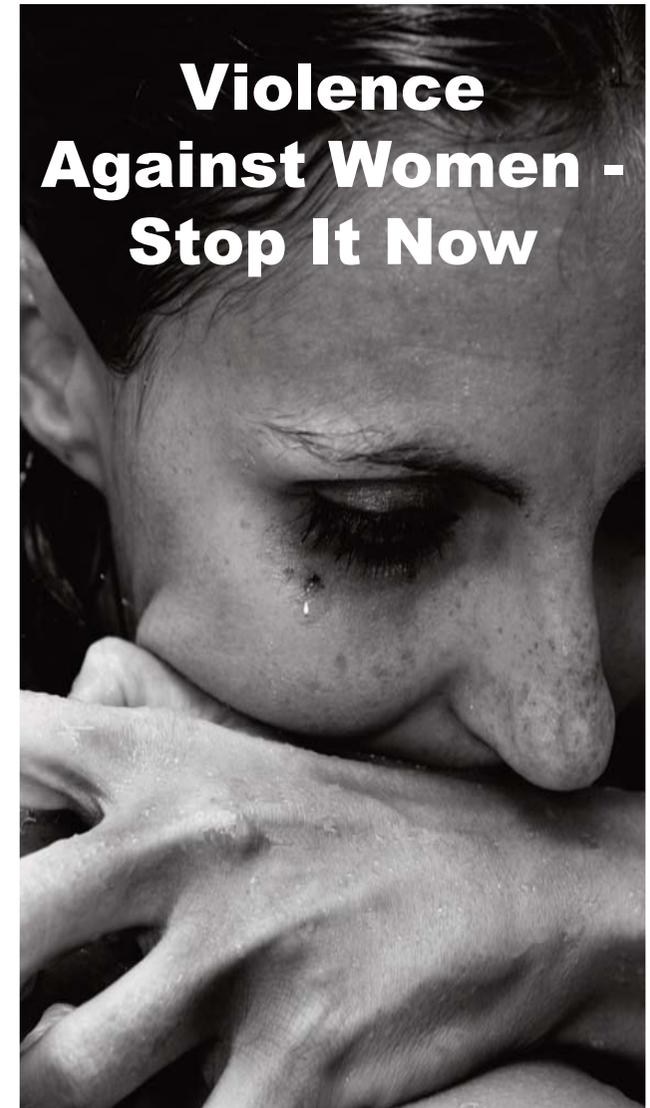
**Women inspiring action,  
transforming lives**

For information at local level please contact:



# UK PAC

# Violence Against Women - Stop It Now



# UK

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## UKPAC's Flagship Project *Violence Against Women - Stop it Now* has five areas of concern:

### **Trafficking and the Sex Trade**

There are more people in slavery in the world today than in the entire 350 year history of the slave trade. One in eight of them are in Europe; at least 10,000 of those are in the UK and over 1,000 of them are children. (William Haigh - October 2012)

### **Forced Marriages and 'honour' killings**

Forced Marriage became a criminal offence in England and Wales in June 2012 (it was already illegal in Scotland). According to a recent poll by the BBC's Asian network, 1 in 10 of the 500 Hindus, Sikhs, Christians and Muslims surveyed in this country said they would condone any murder of someone who threatened their family's honour.

There are approximately 1,700 cases of forced marriage every year in the UK.

### **FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)**

There are over 100,000 women in the UK who have already suffered FGM and a further 20,000 are estimated to be at risk in the UK every year. (Home Office figures) Since 1985 it has been illegal in this country to perform FGM and in 2003 the law was extended to include taking girls out of the country to have FGM performed.

But, not one single prosecution has been brought since these laws came into force.

### **Elder Abuse**

Hundreds of thousands of elderly people are at risk of neglect, physical, psychological, financial or sexual abuse in the UK every year. (Age UK)

### **Domestic Violence and Abuse**

One in four women in the UK will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime. Two women a week are killed by a current or former male partner. (Women's Aid)

## What UK Soroptimists are doing

In the autumn of 2012 the UK Programme Action Committee conducted a survey of the work being undertaken by all clubs in the country. The results of this have shown that:



Over 75% of the clubs in the UK actively support their local Women's Aid Refuge.



Over half of all clubs in the UK have lobbied or petitioned on the issue of violence against women in the past year. Most notably a postcard campaign in support of legislation to make Forced Marriage illegal (successful).



Over 75 Contact Centres and 75 Domestic Violence Forums are supported, nationally.



More than 400 events, aimed at raising awareness of the problems of violence against women, have been organised by Soroptimists, across the nation, in the past year.



Soroptimists were asked to write to their MPs to ask why in nearly 30 years since FGM was made illegal, not one single prosecution has been made.



Some clubs have taken one aspect of Violence Against Women and run with it, nationally. Just three examples are the Yeovil club's 'Domestic Abuse' bookmarks, Tenby's DVDs, raising awareness of FGM and Poole's Purple Teardrop anti-trafficking campaign. All three initiatives have been circulated across the nation.

