

# HARCSAC

## STATEMENT OF VALUES

Male violence against women is one of the most serious inequalities facing women in the UK today. Nationally and internationally this is recognised as a fundamental violation of human rights, a cause and consequence of gender inequality and of broader social, economic, political and cultural discrimination experienced by women that violate the principles of equal rights and respect for human dignity.

HARCSAC recognises the imbalance of power relations between men and women within society and understands that gender based violence in all its forms is an abuse of power that underpins, enables and perpetuates gender inequality.

By working from a feminist understanding of violence against women and in recognition of women as full human beings, HARCSAC supports women's human rights and women's ability to have greater control and choice in their lives. To this end HARCSAC works to promote substantive equality. Where the common concept of 'equality' focuses on equality of opportunity for all and suggests that everyone should be treated the same, substantive equality acknowledges the entrenched, systematic nature of discrimination against women that is made invisible by the common concept. It recognises that women and men may need to be treated differently in order to benefit equally.

HARCSAC services are managed and delivered by women, for women. HARCSAC services support women to articulate their own experiences and reality in their own way in a safe, non-threatening, women only space. HARCSAC asserts that women and children can never be held responsible for the choice made by another to abuse them and works from a women-centred perspective that promotes empowerment and self determination as well as facilitating recovery from experiences of violence.

HARCSAC is committed to a client led approach to service delivery and understands that the women who use our services are best placed to identify their own recovery needs. We offer non-judgemental, non-directive information, counselling and support in order to assist each woman's individual recovery process. All women are supported in their choices with regard to their human rights including sexual health, reproductive rights and the right to safe abortion.

HARCSAC seeks to promote awareness of the impact of sexual violence and challenge misperceptions and social tolerance of sexual violence through our involvement with local partnerships, by offering training and awareness to both statutory and non-statutory groups and contributing to media pieces concerning sexual violence.