

**solace**  
women's aid

# PIE4Shelters

**Introduction to Women's  
Refuges in the UK**

**Jennifer Cirone**



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# Violence Against Women and Girls

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# Domestic Abuse in London

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**28%** of women have experienced domestic abuse

**85000** women are raped in England & Wales every year

The MET police receive a 999 call relating to domestic abuse every **30 seconds**

**59%** of girls & young women faced some form of sexual harassment

**1 in 5** children in the UK experience domestic abuse

**66.2%** of women in work who'd experienced domestic violence said work couldn't help



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# Our support

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**150 staff** members & **90 volunteers** working together for **safe lives** and **strong futures** for all **women** and **girls**.



Solace supports over **11000 survivors** every year



Our advice line answers **100 calls** a week



Supported over **700 women & children** into safe accommodation



Solace supported **374 women** with No Recourse to Public Funds

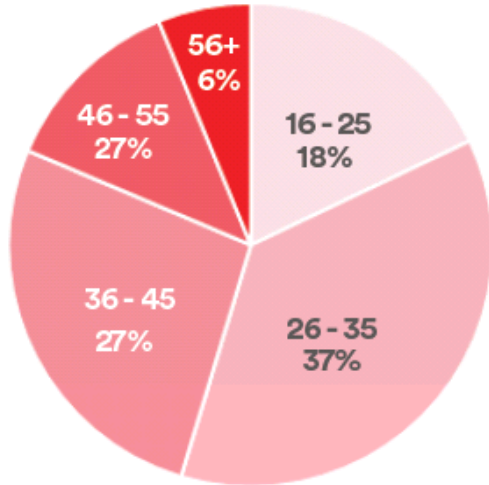


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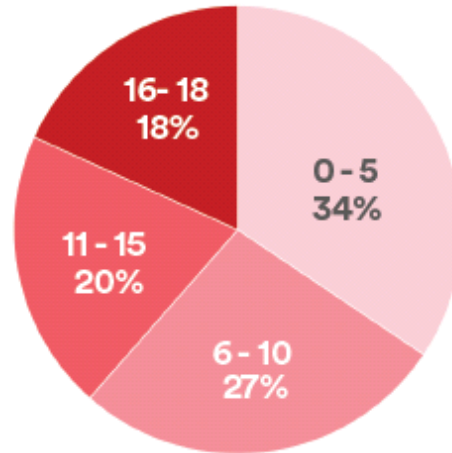
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# Who we help

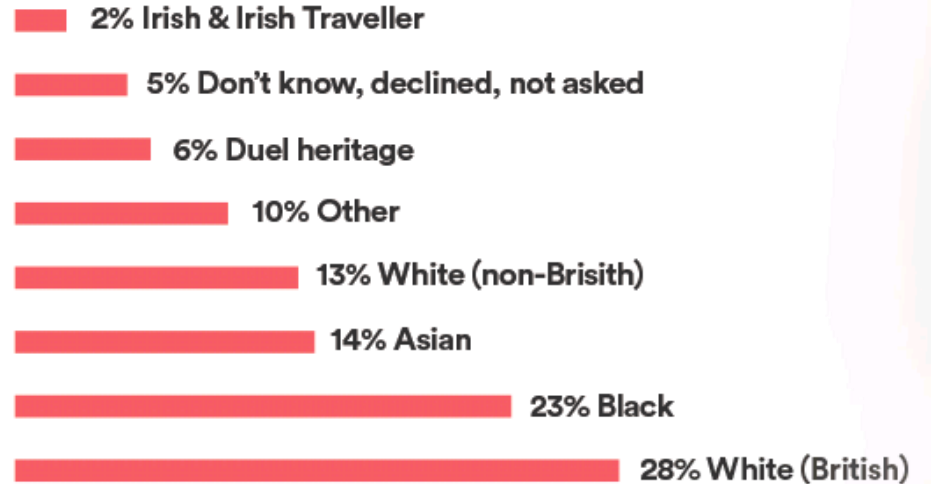
Age of adult service users



Age of children & young people service users



Ethnicity of service users



**“There are so many women in London who are living through extraordinarily complex and volatile situations”**



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# How we help

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solace rape crisis

solace therapeutic services

solace for young people

solace advice & support

solace accommodation



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# Our Supported Accommodation Services

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- 16 “generic” refuges
- 3 specialist BME refuges – partnership
- Complex needs refuge – 24hrs, mainly enduring poor mental health
- Housing First model – partnership
- Amari Project – 18 months dispersed accommodation for trafficked/sexually exploited women
- Units of temporary accommodation – partnership with local authority housing department



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# Features of Services

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- Most women present with low to medium support needs..... initially!
- Average length of stay around 9 months – determined by contract but also other dynamics
- Move on accommodation is a challenge
- Refuges are confidential locations
- Funding – core rents – support element from local authority – value added by Solace – issue of short term funding
- Holistic whole family approach

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The logo for Solace, featuring the word "solace" in white lowercase letters on a red square background.



# Model of Support

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- First contact point is of critical importance
- Adult survivor has keyworker – minimum weekly key working – formal support planning and safety
- CYP has own keyworker – Family Support Worker
- CYP sessional workers – provision for older children
- Therapeutic provision for CYP and women – mixture of paid therapists/partnerships/student placements
- Mainly shared facilities/some self-contained – most buildings leased
- PIE approach



# Ayesha's Story

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**“ Now I am  
confident that  
I can grow and  
be a strong  
woman ”**

**- Ayesha, refuge service user**



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# Questions

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**“I smile now that Mummy smiles”**

**- Solace child in play therapy**



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