



We as the Faith and VAWG Coalition categorically condemn the racist murder of George Floyd and demand that all who were involved in his death be brought to justice. We act in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the United States and the UK who have faced violence and murder in their interactions with the police.

As a Coalition we recognise the importance of intersecting oppression and experiences in how we see and are treated in the world. Faith, race, gender, and sex are some of the multiple identities of all of us and are interlinked. We cannot stand for equality and empowerment of women if we do not call for an end to racism and anti-blackness. We therefore, call on everyone working to end all forms of oppression, particularly in the violence against women and girls sector to act in solidarity with the **#BlackLivesMatter** movement and call for an end to structural racism and prejudice, particularly against Black people.

Black and minoritised women find themselves uniquely at the sharp edge of any conflict between their communities and State violence. They are also subjected to gendered racism. Black women specifically experience misogyny as illustrated by the way Belly Mujinga was attacked and died after being spat on by someone who said they were infected with COVID-19. The police have decided that no further action from them is warranted. Her attacker remains at large.

The toxic mix of structural racism, covid-19 and violence against women and girls must not be underestimated. We want to say to our Black sisters and brothers; we see you, we hear you and we stand with you.

Here are some of the ways in which you can help including by donating to Black by and for organisations:

- ✿ FORWARD <https://www.forwarduk.org.uk/>
- ✿ Women and Girls Network <https://www.wgn.org.uk/>
- ✿ Imkaan <https://www.imkaan.org.uk/>
- ✿ Sistah Space <https://www.sistahspace.org/>
- ✿ Million Women Rise <http://www.millionwomenrise.com/donate.html>
- ✿ Gal-Dem <https://gal-dem.com/what-to-do-if-you-cant-protest-on-the-streets-for-black-lives-matter/>
- ✿ AZ Magazine <https://azmagazine.co.uk/>
- ✿ Black Lives Matter UK <https://www.gofundme.com/f/ukblm-fund>
- ✿ Stop Watch <https://www.gofundme.com/f/StopWatch-Campaign-for-Fair-Accountable-Policing>
- ✿ Stephen Lawrence Trust <https://www.stephenlawrence.org.uk/about-us/>
- ✿ #CharitySoWhite <https://charitysowhite.org/>

Here are some of the way in which you can become a better ally and anti-racist:

- ✿ <https://racereflections.co.uk/about-the-author/>
- ✿ <https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/We-Need-to-Talk-About-Race-by-Benjamin-Lindsay-author/9780281080175>
- ✿ <https://scmpress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780334059356/ghost-ship>
- ✿ a thread on allyship: <https://twitter.com/mireillecharper/status/1266335563197501440A>
- ✿ A list of resources from #CharitySoWhite: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BRIF2_zhNe86SGgHa6-VIBO-QgirITwCTugSfKie5Fs/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR19Efw-7jiloJuO86kulij1u46YKxlgyWNf0xGvefMgE8QufgeziwIDBpM

About Faith and VAWG Coalition

The Coalition brings together organisations and activists working at the intersection between faith and domestic violence. The Coalition is led by the Safety Across Faith and Ethnic (SAFE) Communities project at Standing Together Against Domestic Violence. It seeks to build bridges between members of Faith Communities or Faith-centric organisations and DVA specialists and organisations within the VAWG-sector. The Coalition brings together a range of organisations and activists supporting survivors from faith communities to reflect on what the sector and the Coordinated Community Response can do to break down the barriers for survivors and their communities in accessing specialist support.

Coalition Members

- ✿ Standing Together Against Domestic Violence-SAFE Communities Project
- ✿ FORWARD
- ✿ Jewish Women's Aid
- ✿ Latin American Women's Right Service
- ✿ Respect
- ✿ Muslim Youth Helpline
- ✿ Restored
- ✿ Natalie Collins
- ✿ Nikki Dhillon-Keane
- ✿ Sara Hyde

The Coalition subscribes to the following values:

1. We ascribe to the feminist perspective on male violence against women.
2. We are grounded in our expertise and experience as both professionals in the support, DVA /SVA sector and in our lived experience.
3. We believe that faith can contribute towards the elimination of VAWG.
4. We believe there are no hierarchy of faith, belief or non-belief. All are equal.

The Coalition believes that:

1. There are survivors whose needs are not being met.
2. There is a gap in understanding the role of faith in survivors' lives and therefore a gap in policy responses.
3. Faith communities and groups may be the only access to support a survivor gets.
4. As specialists and organisations, we are stronger together as a collective voice.
5. There is a gap in funding and support for survivors from faith backgrounds and faith organisations who are working to end VAWG.

