Faith and VAWG Coalition Membership

**About Faith and VAWG Coalition**

The Coalition brings together organisations and activists working at the intersections of faith, race, ethnicity and violence against women and girls. The Coalition is led by the Faith and Community Programme at Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse. It seeks to build bridges between members of Faith Communities or Faith-centric organisations and DVA specialists and organisations within the Violence Against Women and Girls sector. The Coalition brings together a range of programmes and organisations as co-founders (SAFE Communities Project, Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse, Restored, Respect, Muslim Youth Helpline, Jewish Women's Aid, Forward UK and Latin American Women's Rights Service) and activists (Nikki Dhillon-Keane, Sara Hyde and Natalie Collins) supporting survivors from faith communities to reflect on what the sector, specialist services and the Coordinated Community Response can do to break down the barriers for survivors and their communities in accessing specialist support and centring their safety.

**Faith and VAWG Coalition’s values**

The Coalition’s values are:

1. We adopt an intersectional feminist perspective that understands violence against women as largely perpetrated by men and rooted in systemic, though not exclusive gender, racial and economic inequality.
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 to the elimination of VAWG.
4. We believe there is no hierarchy of faith, belief or non-belief. All are equal.
5. We are a safe space created by a diverse range of women with an objective to work against all forms and systems of oppression.
6. We are a non-oppressive coalition that supports and fosters inclusion of all identities and differences.

The Coalition believes that:

1. Women’s experiences of violence intersect with other structural inequalities which subsequently influences and impacts women’s experiences when receiving support and justice.
2. There are survivors whose needs are not being met due to a lack of understanding of their needs and structural barriers to support.
3. Survivors of faith are subject to particular secular assumptions surrounding religion and its ‘role’ in VAWG.
4. There is a gap in understanding the role of faith in survivors’ lives and therefore a gap in policy responses.
5. Faith communities and groups may be the only mode of support available to a survivor.
6. As specialists and organisations, we are stronger together as a collective voice.
7. There is a gap in funding and support for survivors from faith backgrounds and faith organisations who are working to end VAWG.

The Coalition commits to:

1. Centring the voices of survivors from faith and minoritised communities.
2. Sharing best practice among members of the Coalition.
3. Engaging faith leaders and communities.
4. Influencing policymakers and the sector.
5. Influencing faith leaders and faith communities.
6. Creating a safe space rooted in peer support.
7. Lobbying and advocacy.
8. Produce resources to be shared.
9. Amplifying the work and best practice of members.

Membership is open to any individuals or organisations of faith or non that are working to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. Members must demonstrate a commitment to the aims and values of the Coalition. Membership is conditional on the approval of the Steering Group, who reserve the right to withdraw membership if a person or organisation fails to uphold the values of the Coalition.

*To register interest in the Coalition please complete the relevant application form below. Please note there is a separate application form for individuals and organisations*.

**Individual Membership Application form**

**Name**: **Affiliated organisations:** **Address:**

**Which faith or Black & Minoritised communities do you work with?**

**Why do you want to join the Faith and VAWG Coalition?**

**In what ways do you work, personally or professionally, to build bridges between faith communities and the VAWG-sector or to support survivors from faith communities?**

**Demonstrate how you are committed to the values beliefs and goals of the Coalition.**

**What kind of knowledge, expertise or skill would you like to share with the Coalition?**

**What would you like to gain from the Coalition?**

**Organisation Membership Application form**

**Organisation Name:**

**Why does your organisation want to join the Faith and VAWG Coalition?**

**In what ways does your organisation work to build bridges between faith communities and the VAWG-sector or to support survivors from faith communities?**

**Demonstrate how your organisation is committed to the values beliefs and goals of the Coalitions**

Please return the completed form to the *Faith and Community Programme Project Officer* Zainab Moallin at [z.moallin@standingtogether.org.uk](mailto:z.moallin@standingtogether.org.uk)

*Thank you for your application.*