

Shakti Women's Aid

Specialist Support For BME Women and CYP Survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



@shaktiedinburgh
info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk
www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Registered Scottish Charity Number SC 008837

Shakti Women's Aid

- **Specialist GBV support organisation for BME** women and children
- Shakti means '**Strength**' and is established in 1986
- **30 Staff** and 2/4 Social Work and Counselling Placement Students
- **Bilingual** workforce
- Main office in Edinburgh and Outreach service in Edinburgh, Tayside, **Falkirk**, Stirling and Forth Valley, Fife and the Lothians
- **BME appropriate refuge** accommodation in Edinburgh
- **Housing & Advocacy, CYP and Outreach Services**



Projects - MAITRI for BME LGBT+

- A dedicated and specialised **LGBTQ+ domestic abuse support service** with strong commitment to intersectionality
- Offered to BME women and CYP from the LGBTQ+ communities **all across Scotland**
- **LGBTQ+ Educational Outreach Programme**: collaborations with colleges and universities to work with them to conduct info-sessions to share Shakti Women's Aid's support services, LGBTQ+ additional risks, vulnerabilities and experiences.



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Projects - Support for Migrant Victims (SMV)

- **Home Office Pilot Scheme** – Offered Scotland-wide to migrant survivors of domestic and other forms of gender-related abuse (and their children) of all genders who are subject to the No Recourse to Public Funds status
- Shakti Women's Aid is the **appointed Home Office representative in Scotland** managing SMV applications
- Offering temporary **funds for safe accommodation rent** and weekly **subsistence payments** for up to 12 weeks



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Service Statistics (to date in 2023)

- Number of adult service users across all services: **462**
- Number of adult service users in Edinburgh services: **217**
- Number of CYP service users in Edinburgh & Lothians: **228**
- Number of adult service users across Outreach services: **215**
 - Outreach - Forth Valley: **40**
 - **Outreach – Falkirk: 30**
 - Outreach - Edinburgh: **48**
 - Outreach - Lothians: **25**
 - Outreach - Fife: **38**
 - Outreach - Tayside: **38**
 - Outreach - LGBT Maitri : **5**
 - Outreach - Support for Migrant Victims: **21**



BME Specific GBV Types Supported

H O N O U R

Honour-Based Abuse	Breach of honour-codes in familial and community relationships
Forced Marriage	Being forced to marry under duress, coercion and/or blackmail
Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation	Partial/total removal of the external female genitalia, for non-medical reasons
Abandonment and Human Trafficking	Illegal transport of individuals by force or deception
Dowry Related Abuse	Claims of dowry as a form of abuse
Immigration As a Tool of Abuse	Physical/emotional abuse due to insecure NRPF visa status



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How Can Shakti Help At Community Level

- **Safety planning** when fleeing abuse and resettlement
- **Safe accommodation** including refuge spaces and home-share
- **Benefits / Financial** help including SMV funds and other grants
- **Work / Education / Vocational Skills** training access assistance
- **Counselling / Emotional support**
- **Health services / NHS assessments** access assistance
- **Legal assistance** by specialist Solicitors (criminal, civil, immigration)
- **Advocacy / Referrals / Signposting** to other specialist services
- Home Office **DDVC and SMV** applications
- Help survivors **stop unwanted partners move to the UK**
- Work in partnership with relevant embassies to **rescue those held against their will or abandoned abroad**



How Can Shakti Help At Institutional Level

- Deliver own **training and awareness sessions** to Public and Third-Sector organisations as well as community groups
- Take part in **Scottish Government consultations** to provide the BME perspective in elimination of violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- **Champion of Violence Against Women and Girls** partnerships in Edinburgh, Fife, Falkirk, Tayside and the Lothians
- Advisory focus group member and provider of national learning and CPD sessions for **improvement of institutional statutory guidance and processes** around HBA and BME specific GBV



Shakti Women's Aid

57 Albion Road
Edinburgh
EH7 5QY
0131 475 2399

**For Further
Information
and Referrals**

info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk
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Twitter: @shaktiedinburgh
Facebook: Shakti Women's Aid



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