



Southall Black Sisters

Shakila Taranum Maan

LGA,

30th January, 2024.

Content

- About Southall Black Sisters (SBS)
- Advocacy at SBS
- Supporting Migrant Victims
- Unprotected Victims
- Esther's Story
- Conclusion



About Southall Black Sisters

- Founded in 1979
- 'By and for' Black, minoritized and migrant women's organisation addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) within Black, minoritized and migrant communities
- **Vision:** empower Black, minoritized and migrant women and girls to assert their human rights to freedom, equality and justice by leading independent, autonomous lives, free from VAWG
- SBS operates within a VAWG, secular, human rights and intersectional framework, particularly in relation to overlapping inequalities based on race, gender and class/poverty
- SBS provides holistic women's resource centre, community-based services
- 60% of SBS' services users are migrant women
- About 70% of our cases are honour based abuse (HBA) related as they involve multiple perpetrators



Advocacy at SBS

- Holistic Approach and Current Initiatives
- Challenges and Impact of Domestic Abuse
- Unique Challenges Faced by BME Women
- Addressing Harmful Practices
- Cultural Competency Gaps and Funding Challenges
- Legal and Ethical Dilemmas, Stereotypes, and Racial Profiling
- No Recourse and statutory bodies



Supporting Migrant Victims

- The SMV pilot is being delivered by SBS in a UK wide partnership. It began in April 2021, and has been extended into its second year and is due to end in March 2023
- The pilot pays towards victim's rent and subsistence for a period of up to 12 weeks to enable them to escape abuse and access legal advice to regularise their status and other holistic support
- Uptake: In the first year, the pilot assisted about 400 victims and their children. In year two, we expect the numbers to be higher
- Evaluation: <https://southallblacksisters.org.uk/news/support-for-migrant-victims-fund-evaluation/>

Unprotected Victims

- Women on non-spousal/partner visas with NRPF and undocumented women are not eligible for the DVILR and the DDVC
- They continue to face a stark choice between domestic abuse or deportation and destitution
- Many on non-spousal/partner visas and undocumented victims have not come forward for the SMV as it does not also give them the right to settlement

Esther's Story



Migrant Women

The evidence and our experience show that victims of domestic abuse need both the right to settlement and public funds in order to come forward and be safe.



Feedback, Information and Thanks

Shakila@southallblacksisters.co.uk

www.southallblacksisters.org.uk

Thank you!

