

# Breaking the Cycle

## Moving beyond 'lessons learnt' in domestic abuse

CNWL White Ribbon panel discussion  
11 December 2025



Wellbeing for life

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**



10:00am – 13:00pm

*Online (open to all NHS staff and partner agencies)*

To honour national and international campaigns to end male violence against women and girls and the first ever [NHS Domestic Abuse Awareness Day](#) #NHSDAAD on 10<sup>th</sup> December; we are hosting a cross-sector panel discussion examining why, despite significant work across systems, the same themes continue to re-emerge in domestic abuse practice and reviews. What does this tell us about the effectiveness of our approaches and how do we better co-ordinate our responses to make safer communities.

**To register, click [here](#)** (panel member biographies below)

### Timings:

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10.00am - Welcome and introduction to session - **Susan Bray, CNWL NHS Trust Domestic Abuse Lead**

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10.05am - CNWL's commitment to 'Breaking the Cycle' - **Claire Murdoch, Chief Executive, CNWL NHS Trust**

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10.15am - Putting the session into context - **Nicole Jacobs, Domestic Abuse Commissioner**

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10.30am - Why is it so difficult to break the cycle of lessons learnt? - **Panel discussion**

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11.30am - Break

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11.45am - How do we move beyond lessons learnt? - **Panel discussion**

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12.45pm - Reflections

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12.55pm - Closing remarks

## Panel Member Biographies

### Christabel Yeboah – Chief Vision Officer, HERSANA



Christabel Yeboah [she/her] is one of the Founders & Chief Vision Officer of the first national Gender-based Violence Support Service for Black femmes in the UK. Christabel has over ten years' experience of working in the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) sector in legal, frontline, leadership and strategic roles and her mission is and has always been to centre Black women in every narrative. As a Gender-based Violence Specialist Consultant, Christabel provides specialist advice to the private and statutory sector, police, local authorities and other organisations on the particular intersections of experiences within marginalised communities and equips people with the tools, context and information needed to take tangible steps towards change within their direct sphere of influence.

Christabel chairs the Global Majority Heritage Domestic Abuse Partnership Forum for London and as an accredited DHR Chair, provides specialist support and expertise on Domestic Homicide Reviews involving Black women and girls as well as being a Youth Justice Board Member.

### Chris Green OBE - Co-Founder Male Allies Challenging Sexism and Founder of White Ribbon Campaign UK



Christopher Green OBE is the Founder of White Ribbon UK and a leading international advocate for engaging men and boys in ending violence against women. He founded White Ribbon UK in 2004 and has since worked with governments, UN bodies, police forces and women's organisations across the world. He served on the Council of Europe Task Force that developed the Istanbul Convention, was a member of the WHO Violence Prevention Alliance, and chaired the Coalition on Men and Boys. In 2012 he was appointed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to the UN Leaders of Men to Combat Violence Against Women, alongside global figures including Desmond Tutu and José Zapatero. Christopher has advised UK national bodies including ACPO, Public Health England, and NICE, and has delivered training and lectures internationally, including in Ghana, Namibia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Russia and Lebanon. He has spoken in multiple national parliaments and has collaborated with more than 20 women's organisations. In 2017 he was awarded an OBE for Services to Equality. He remains a prominent speaker, trainer and campaigner on ending male violence against women.

### Claire Throssell MBE – Survivor of Domestic Abuse, Campaigner and Public Speaker



Claire Throssell MBE Claire Throssell is a passionate advocate for children's rights, particularly for those affected by domestic abuse. Her personal tragedy has driven her to fight for family law reform to better protect children. Claire's life changed after the tragic loss of her two sons, 12-year-old Jack and 9-year-old Paul, who were murdered by their father in a house fire in October 2014. Despite raising concerns about her ex-husband's history of domestic abuse, the courts allowed contact with the children under the principle of presumptive contact, which prioritises access to non-residential parents even when abuse is involved. For over a decade, Claire has campaigned to reform this principle, alongside organisations like Women's Aid, ensuring children's safety is prioritised in family court decisions. She is also pushing for children to have a voice in custody arrangements and advocating for more thorough risk assessments of parents with histories of abuse. Claire's petition, calling for a debate in Parliament, can be found at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/child-first-safe-child-contact-saves-lives>. In recognition of her tireless dedication, Claire was awarded an MBE in 2021. Her advocacy includes speaking engagements, petition drives, and work with politicians to raise awareness of gaps in the law. Claire continues to fight for children's rights and inspire others, with the belief that "Every child deserves a childhood free of fear, free of oppression, and allowed to grow." On the 22nd October 2025 exactly eleven years after Jack and Paul were murdered the government announced that they will repeal the presumption of contact in law. This will save children's lives not just today and tomorrow but for generations of children to come.....in the name of Jack and Paul. Claire has also written a book titled For My Boys which is an honest, raw account of life, love, hope and ultimately loss through Domestic Abuse.

## David Challen - Domestic Abuse Advisor, Campaigner and Keynote Speaker



David Challen is a domestic abuse advisor, campaigner, author and keynote speaker. He successfully campaigned to free his mother Sally Challen in a landmark appeal raising awareness of the lifetime of coercive control she suffered in 2019. David continues to speak out against men's violence against women, coercive control and the impact of domestic abuse on children, as well as men's role in tackling misogyny. David is an advisor to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales and an Ambassador for the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) and the Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse.

*The Unthinkable* [here](#), and recent work written op-ed on coercive control for The Observer [here](#)

## Halaleh Taheri - Founder and Executive Director, MEWSO



Born in Iran, Halaleh was part of the 1979 people's revolution against the Shah, and later part of the resistance against the Islamic Republic headed by Ayatollah Khomeini, after thousands of young activists were arrested and executed. She was forced to leave her home when it was bombed by Islamic troops and fled to Iraq, where she lived for 11 years. During the first Gulf War, Halaleh was forced to flee again, travelling through Syria and into Turkey. With the help of the United Nations, she was granted asylum and later moved to Sweden, where she lived for 14 years, earned a degree, and qualified as a social worker. Fluent in Farsi, Kurdish, Swedish, and English, she built a career for herself and continued her fight for women's rights. In 2005, she moved to London and five years later founded MEWSO. Over the years, Halaleh has lost many loved ones in revolution 1979 in Iran, witnessed routine violence against women and girls (often falsely justified as honouring the family), and experienced gender-based injustices on a daily basis. She made an early decision to dedicate her life to helping women, and she knows from lived experience the particular challenges migrant, refugee, and displaced women face and the tailored support they need to boost their emotional wellbeing and rebuild their lives. Her grassroots organisation has spent 15 years supporting migrants across the Middle East and North Africa, from Afghanistan to Sudan, helping them rebuild their lives through campaigning, advice, counselling, and raising awareness about their rights in the UK.

## Louisa Rolfe - Domestic Abuse Lead, National Police Chiefs' Council



Assistant Commissioner Louisa Rolfe OBE began her policing career with Avon and Somerset Police, rising from neighbourhood PC to a senior leader over 25 years. She led major developments including the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit, the Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit, a bi-force Major Crime Investigation Team, and a tri-force capability for roads policing, firearms and dogs. A committed advocate for diversity and equality, she increased women's representation in senior investigative roles and sponsored workforce diversity initiatives. She joined the Metropolitan Police Service in 2020 as Assistant Commissioner for Met Operations, leading policing of major events such as large-scale protests, Notting Hill Carnival, the Platinum Jubilee and HM The Queen's state funeral. In 2022, she became AC Frontline Policing, responsible for borough policing and specialist crime, contributing to the New Met for London plan and improvements in VAWG, child exploitation, neighbourhood policing and volume crime. In November 2024, she took on a national role leading policing input into the Government's reform agenda, working jointly with the Home Office. AC Rolfe has been the NPCC Lead for Domestic Abuse since 2013, driving major service improvements following HMIC's Everyone's Business report. Her leadership in this area was recognised with an OBE in 2019. She also serves as the NPCC Lead for the National Crime Coordination Committee.

## Philippa Greenfield - Joint Presidential Lead for Women & Mental Health, Royal College of Psychiatrists



Dr Philippa Greenfield is a Consultant General Adult Psychiatrist in North London Foundation Trust and Joint Presidential Lead for Women and Mental Health for the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych). Her national work has focused on the impact of trauma (in particular, domestic and sexual abuse) and inequality on mental health and how we can address this through cross-system trauma informed responses. She sits on the STADA National Health and Domestic Abuse Leadership Group. She has contributed to national policy and guidance on responding to domestic and sexual violence and abuse in mental health settings.

Dr Greenfield provides Trauma Informed Leadership to the NHSE national Culture of Care Program, being delivered by the NCCMH. This is a national quality improvement and senior leadership support program designed to improve the culture of care on mental health inpatient and learning disability wards through embedding trauma informed, autism informed and anti-racist approaches and co-production.

## Seema Haider - GP Partner / VAWG Prevention Advocate



Dr Seema Haider is an NHS General Practitioner, writer, and advocate for gender equality and the prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG) within the NHS. She holds a PG Certificate (Distinction) in both Applied Positive Psychology and Coaching Psychology and Medical Education. Her BMJ article on *domestic abuse among female doctors* sparked a national conversation in the NHS and was followed by a *podcast* with NHS Practitioner Health. Seema works with NHS England, safeguarding teams, and researchers to improve the institutional response to domestic abuse. She also appeared in the ITV documentary *Breaking the Silence: Kate's Story* (available on ITVx), produced by BAFTA-winning True Vision, which exposed the hidden abuse faced by professional women and injustices in the family court system.

**BMJ:** [Courage is contagious: we need to talk about the domestic abuse experienced by female doctors in the NHS | The BMJ](#)

**Podcast:** [Surviving Domestic Abuse as a Health and Care Professional with Dr Seema Haider and Dr Sandi Dheensa](#)

## Subhaluxmi Mukherji - London Regional Lead, Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office



Subhaluxmi joined the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Practice and Partnerships team in 2022, as the Geographic Lead for London and SE. Prior to that she has worked in frontline and management roles in the VAWG sector in India and London since 2005