



Cymorth i Ferched Cymru
Welsh Women's Aid

Rhoi Merched a Phlant yn Gyntaf
Putting Women & Children First

Deugain llais
Deugain mlynedd
 Forty Voices
Forty Years



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For more information about Welsh Women's Aid please go to: www.welshwomensaid.org.uk or you can find us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube @welshwomensaid

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“Women’s Aid is one of the greatest legacies of the Welsh women’s movement.”¹

¹ Beddoe, D., *Out of the Shadows: A history of women in twentieth century Wales*, (Aberystwyth, 2000), p.162.

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INTRODUCTION

Forty Voices, Forty Years and Future 40

During 2018-19 Welsh Women's Aid worked in collaboration with the University of South Wales' George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling to mark the organisation's 40th anniversary. The project – 'Forty Voices, Forty Years' - was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Awards for All and Hanford Cymru and emerged from a recognition that women's memories, voices and lives are often written out of national heritage. The project aimed to commemorate the work of these women over the past forty years, but also enhance understanding of the movement to stop violence against women in Wales, improving community knowledge about these types of abuse and our work to prevent it. The project visited and held workshops with women across Wales who had been involved in the Welsh Women's Aid movement over the past 40 years, recording their fascinating stories. These women included activists, former staff, organisational members, survivors, supporters and politicians.

Alongside preserving these stories, we have also been collecting the movement's history through letters, photos and objects from people and organisations who have been involved in the movement.

These stories and collected materials were then showcased in the Forty Voices, Forty Years touring exhibition which visited venues across Wales in late 2018, culminating in a large scale, month-long exhibition at St Fagan's in January and February 2019.

Finally, we were invited by the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip (and the first Coordinator of Welsh Women's Aid back in 1978) Jane Hutt AM, to display the exhibition at the National Assembly for Wales in the Senedd for the week of International Women's Day, and to take over the galleries at the National Assembly for Wales' Pierhead Building in Cardiff Bay during the month of April.

The project's stories, objects and other learning has also been preserved through an online gallery hosted by the [People's Collection Wales](#), accessible to all. Papers and photos collected are also being entered into the Welsh Women's Aid archive at the National Library of Wales.

This project commemorates the work of the organisation over the past forty years, but also enhances understanding of the movement to stop violence against women in Wales, improving community knowledge about these types of abuse and our work to prevent it. We also wanted to encourage reflection on our future priorities as a movement, as we work towards our shared goal of eradicating violence against women once and for all. This was captured through our #Future40 campaign which ran alongside the project, collecting the public's ideas and aspirations for ending violence against women and girls in the coming forty years.²

Since the official completion of the project the stories have continued to have value and have formed a central aspect of events with stakeholder organisations including Assembly Members and Ministers. We have also successfully secured funding from the University of South Wales to extend the impact and reach of Forty Voices, Forty Years through the creation of a digital resource that highlights some of the heritage collected and points people towards the full stories archived in the People's Collection of Wales.

² See Appendix 4.

Executive Summary

- **26** women instrumental in the women's liberation and Women's Aid movement in Wales had their stories recorded
- **46** oral histories and digital stories from activists, survivors and staff involved in the Wales movement over the past 40 years
- **18** survivors contributed **22** stories were created from digital storytelling workshops.
- **46** accessible digital stories shared across Wales and online through The People's Collection Wales, YouTube and Facebook.
- Comprehensive archive created at The People's Collection of Wales and the National Library of Wales, which will continue to be added to in the future to further grow the collection, **and a timeline created of key historical moments** relating to the Welsh Women's Aid's movement captured and shared.
- **68** volunteers supported the project, and over **100** days volunteering provided
- **5,648** people in Wales attended the touring exhibition and over **14,500** museum visitors saw the final exhibition
- More than **20,000** individuals, pupils and students, community groups, and others attended exhibitions and lectures in their local communities and educational spaces hearing powerful survivor stories, learning about the reasons for the movement, the challenges and achievements faced at various times over the past 40 years, and better understand why the sector is still needed.
- Approximately **10,000** individuals accessed project information via online resources and social media.

About Welsh Women's Aid

2018 marked a proud forty years of Welsh Women's Aid, the umbrella organisation in Wales that today supports and provides national representation for independent third sector violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV) specialist services in Wales.³ These services, many of whom have also recently celebrated their fortieth anniversaries, deliver life-saving and life-changing support and preventative work in response to violence against women, including domestic abuse and sexual violence, as part of a network of UK provision.

As an umbrella organisation, our primary purpose is to prevent domestic abuse, sexual violence and all other forms of violence against women and ensure high quality services for survivors that are needs-led, gender responsive and holistic. We collaborate nationally to integrate and improve community responses and practice in Wales; we provide advice, consultancy, support and training to deliver policy and service improvements across government, public, private and third sector services and in communities, for the benefit of survivors.

We also deliver direct services including, for example, the Welsh Government funded Live Fear Free Helpline and a National Training Service partnership. We are piloting the Survivors Empowering and Educating Services (SEEdS) project, which is supporting women survivors of violence and abuse to collectively influence and inform improvements in public services and commissioning frameworks and help change attitudes. We are also piloting innovative approaches to ending violence against women and girls for good, including through the *Change That Lasts* project working with survivors, specialist services, public services, communities and policy makers to intervene earlier and work more collaboratively.⁴

We also deliver the Wales National Quality Service Standards, a national accreditation framework for domestic abuse specialist services in Wales (supported by the Welsh Government) as part of a UK suite of integrated accreditation systems and frameworks.⁵

About the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling

GEECS is a research centre at the University of South Wales. It is the only UK academic research centre devoted to the study of storytelling and its applications. All of the work carried out in the Centre is guided by the ethos that storytelling creates better understanding between individuals and communities across society; by sharing stories and having them heard, acknowledged and respected we are able to create a better awareness of our past and our current situation and to imagine the kind of world we would like to create.

³ Our membership of third sector violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence specialist services in Wales, with whom we have national partnership agreements to ensure our work is coordinated and integrated includes: Aberconwy DAS, Atal y Fro, Bangor and District Women's Aid, Clwyd Alyn Housing Association (CAHA) Women's Aid, Stepping Stones, Safer Merthyr Tydfil, Carmarthen Domestic Abuse Service, Calan DVS, Cardiff Women's Aid, Cyfannol Women's Aid, Domestic Abuse Safety Unit (DASU), Gorwel (Grwp Cynefin), Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre, Newport Women's Aid, North Denbighshire Domestic Abuse Service, Thrive Women's Aid, Women's Aid RCT, Safer Wales (including Dyn Project), Swansea Women's Aid, Threshold, West Wales Domestic Abuse Service and Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) North Wales.

⁴ More information on the Change That Lasts approach can be found here: <http://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/our-approach-change-that-lasts/>

⁵ More information on the NQSS can be found here: <http://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/our-members/standards/>.

Why storytelling and oral history

Stories are key to understanding our heritage, they help us see how we got to the place we are now and why that matters on a human level. The stories we have collected as part of Forty Voices, Forty Years enable us to understand the often hidden but hugely significant actions of individual women, and how these actions combine to create a movement that has shaped all our lives in Wales and beyond. Through sharing these stories and ensuring that they are heard by a variety of stakeholders and audiences we are able to amplify the voices of often marginalised communities of women and ensure that they become recognised as central to our collective heritage as a nation.

Digital Storytelling and Oral History allow the teller to take control of their own representation and for heritage to be genuinely co-produced. Within this project we have collected stories told, shaped and illustrated by the key protagonists. This approach acknowledges that history is subjective and that we need to see events from a variety of perspectives in order to gain a fuller and more complex understanding. A key tenet of digital storytelling and oral history is that the authentic voice of the teller is respected. We took the decision to facilitate contributors to share their stories in their own words and using the language of their choice. We are not aiming for factual accuracy or objectivity but for the more elusive historical truth and understanding that can be gained from listening to how it *felt* to be there at key moments that have shaped our national story.

The importance of a breadth of perspectives is central to our conception of collective heritage as constituted by many individual voices and stories; in this project we do not claim that there is one definitive heritage of the movement to end gender-based violence in Wales, rather we have sought out a multiplicity of voices so that the movement can be understood as a shifting space that contains differing stories and means different things to the various people who might claim a stake within it. Stories, and oral histories, are democratic by their nature – everyone is able to tell a story and when we hear a story we open history so that it is written by and made valuable to *all* the people who live and make it, rather than being tied to fixed buildings, locations, ideas or power structures. Above all, an Oral History and Digital Storytelling approach ensure that orthodoxies are challenged and authentic voices are not lost.



Campaigning for Women's Aid specialist services in the 1980s.

METHODS

Oral History Interviews

A total of 28 women were interviewed following a traditional oral history format. Due to the sensitive nature of many of the stories being collected ethical considerations were paramount. Contributors were identified through a combination of:

- social media campaigns,
- word of mouth from other contributors and
- recommendations from our steering group (which included key stakeholders from survivor groups, organisations working within the sector, academics and the national library of Wales).

Once a potential contributor had made contact or been contacted by a member of our team, a series of conversations outlining the nature of the project and the specifics of what a woman might want to contribute took place. These ensured that people were fully aware of what we would be recording from them and how it would be used as well as allowing us to shape together the way each women's story would be shaped so that contributors took control of how they would be represented and we were able to co-create the heritage.

When a woman had agreed to contribute her story, an appointment was made for the Project Associate to meet her at a location of her choice to conduct a recording. A first stage consent form was completed before any recording took place. Women were then interviewed using oral history interview conventions. Women were offered the opportunity to share their stories in the language of their choice, four women chose to share their stories in Welsh, all other stories were shared in English. No-one chose to share a story in a language other than Welsh or English. The initial recordings were all between one and two hours long. These recordings were then edited by the Project Associate into shorter digital stories of between three and ten minutes. Edited recordings were combined with archive images provided by the contributor herself or drawn from the archives that were uncovered as part of the project to produce a digital story.

Once a draft digital story was completed the contributor was asked to review it and consent was sought again before anything was released into the public domain. Of the 28 women who contributed stories through the oral history process only two chose for their stories not to be made public. A few stories were donated anonymously and, where necessary, the women's voices, names and images were changed to preserve their anonymity. Due to ethical considerations we decided across the project that none of the original oral histories would be released. Although there is a potential loss to the completeness of the heritage recorded because we did not release the original oral history recordings, given the sensitive nature of the topics it was important that the women who contributed were able to speak freely in recordings and that a review process was in place in order to ensure that nothing that could endanger or compromise women was shared. Ultimately, the option to donate stories anonymously and the control of their own representation that the women were able to take led to richer, more honest and more surprising stories that we may not otherwise have been able to uncover.

Once stories were complete and consent had been given for sharing all digital stories were translated; Welsh language stories were shared with English subtitles and vice versa to allow people to access the stories in the language of their choice without having to lose the authentic voice of the contributor. All stories collected have been archived with the People's Collection Wales.

Survivor Workshops

Storyworks UK were commissioned to carry out a number of workshops with survivors. These workshops took place in Cardiff, Aberystwyth and Wrexham to ensure that women from across Wales were able to attend. 18 women in total attended the workshops. At each workshop women were:

- Introduced to the project.
- Shown the principles of digital storytelling.
- Given the opportunity to engage in story circles and creative writing exercises to learn how to shape their story and take control of their representation.
- Learnt the basics of oral history recording and were introduced to equipment and software.
- Had an opportunity to learn about creating images to illustrate their stories.

All of the material generated in workshops was then edited by Storyworks into 22 digital stories (some women recorded more than one story, one woman did not give consent for her story to be released after recording). Again, ethical considerations were paramount and protocols regarding consent to release the stories and the language in which stories were collected and shared were followed as outlined above. The diversity of stories collected during workshops is particularly gratifying and allows for a real breadth of heritage to be collected. Again, all stories collected have been archived with the People's Collection Wales.



A creative representation of a survivor's story made at one of the StoryWorks workshops.

Travelling Exhibition

A travelling exhibition was created that consisted of stories that could be accessed by a portable device, images of posters from each of the decades we were representing and a 'story collecting box' – a digital device with various story prompts where visitors to the exhibition could record their own memories and stories. At the start of the project, alongside our call for stories we also issued a call for objects associated with the movement to eliminate violence against women in Wales. Again, we used social media, word of mouth and recommendations from our steering group to identify women who may have objects that they wished to donate or loan to the exhibition and archive.

Once identified, women were able to donate or loan objects. We followed the guidance given by the National Library of Wales regarding the donation of objects as they would be the final recipients of the archive. Selected key objects and documents were exhibited as part of the final exhibition at St Fagans and the Pierhead. In addition, many of the objects and documents collected were digitised and used to illustrate relevant stories ensuring that they are seen beyond the archive and exhibition.

We were delighted that so many women who contributed stories were able to attend the opening of the exhibition at St Fagans museum and reported that they felt a new sense of the importance and significance of their own personal story when it was presented as part of a wider heritage of a movement that has achieved so much. All of the stories that we had consent to share publicly were showcased at least once during the touring exhibition and all were featured at the main exhibition in St Fagans and at the Pierhead. For details of venues and visitor numbers see below.



A visitor to the traveling exhibition at Swansea University.

KEY OUTPUTS AND PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS

The three key outputs of project were:

- A collection of stories
- A traveling and final exhibition of objects, history and stories
- An archive of Welsh Women's Aid and the movement at the National Library of Wales and on The People's Collection Wales

Objectives

The project has fulfilled the following objectives:

To provide a range of opportunities for the public to engage with the heritage via digital stories, community-based exhibitions, and online platforms, and build a positive framework for community-based conversations that will challenge stereotypes and prejudices through intergenerational dialogue, keeping our heritage alive. We will:

1) Identify the women instrumental in the development of a feminist social and political agenda in Wales, who gave women in Wales safety, support and a voice.

26 women instrumental in the women's liberation and Women's Aid movement in Wales were identified and their stories recorded.⁶

2) Review the key historical moments relating to Welsh Women's Aid and the wider movement, acknowledging and prioritising the diversity of women's identities and life experiences.

Key historical moments relating to Welsh Women's Aid's creation, campaigning, activism, funding and establishment of direct services, our member groups, refuge and community support, work with children and young people, by and for services for Black and minority ethnic women, the Wales helpline, Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015, trade unions, environmental activism, and many personal experiences were identified. These key moments have been collected together in a timeline format.⁷

3) Gather the memories (oral histories and digital stories) of at least 40 activists, survivors, and staff, involved in the movement over the past 40 years. We will capture their reflections on past successes and future challenges, their roles as catalysts for change, and their personal experiences of violence via 1-1 interviews and 2 x digital storytelling workshops (for at least 20 survivor volunteers). Workshops are targeted to survivors only and will contain a digital storytelling learning element.

The project gathered a total of 46 oral histories and digital stories from activists, survivors and staff involved in the movement over the past 40 years. 3 digital storytelling workshops were held with 18 survivor volunteers in partnership with StoryWorks, involving a creative element as well as training participants to write and record their stories. 22 stories were created from these workshops.

⁶ A total of 28 were recorded, but two women decided not to proceed with giving consent to share their final story, leading to a total of 28 final stories.

⁷ See Appendix 1.

4) *Share 40 accessible digital stories via a tour of 7 community spaces covering a wide geographical spread of Wales, both formal (e.g. museums, USW, schools), and informal (libraries, community and shopping centres), and virtual online spaces.*

A total of 46 accessible bilingual (English and Welsh) digital stories were shared through a tour of 9 venues across Wales, as well as online through The People's Collection Wales, YouTube and Facebook.

5) *Collate for a final event and exhibition, the physical documents and artefacts (reports, key policy and legislative papers, newsletters, leaflets, newspaper articles, books, banners, badges, t-shirts, campaign information, fundraising materials, photographs, and other objects) which demonstrate the journey of the movement and the activists and organisations involved.*

Physical documents and artefacts identified during the project formed the core of the large final exhibition held at the National Museum of Wales St Fagan's in Cardiff from the 24th of January to the 25th of February 2019. This included t-shirts, leaflets, reports, letters, photos, a ceramic bowl, embroidered banners, signs and more.

6) *Archive orals histories, digital stories, and materials via the Women's Archive Wales at the National Library of Wales and via the Peoples' Collection of Wales website as appropriate.*

All stories and materials collected during the project have been archived at The People's Collection of Wales and the National Library of Wales. The archive will continue to be added to in the future to further grow the collection.⁸

7) *Train a range of volunteers and staff to assist with various aspects of the project e.g. gathering and archiving materials, digitisation, stewarding exhibitions (10 volunteers).*

A total of 68 volunteers supported the project, along with 22 Welsh Women's Aid member organisations and their staff. Support included stewarding the exhibitions, helping to archive the material and digitise VHS films. Volunteers have continued to engage with the organisation and volunteer their time. This was a total of over 50 days' worth of volunteering. This is not including the amount of time the University of South Wales Interior Design and Animation students spent working on the project, which will likely bring the total over 100 days.

8) *Launch events and communications plan to promote materials and activities across Wales using high visibility acknowledgement of funders as required.*

Joint communications were agreed between Welsh Women's Aid and the University of South Wales through an extensive communications plan. Social media, flyers, press releases, coverage on Radio Wales and ITV Wales were utilised along with newsletters and updates at meetings.

9) *Deliver 2 x lectures to annual storytelling symposium and a further lecture to students*

Information about the project was shared at the University of South Wales' annual Storytelling Symposium held in April 2018 and again in April 2019, in addition to a student-focused lecture.

10) *Link work to the Future Forty campaign, encouraging interest within communities about what the next 40 years should look like.*

⁸ <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/discover/query/forty%20voices%20forty%20years> [Accessed 24.06.19].

We publicised our Future Forty campaign throughout the project and received a great response from hundreds of individuals. A report of the feedback has been prepared which focuses on the public's priorities to end violence against women and girls in Wales.



A woman recording her story for the project.

Outcomes

1: The heritage of women in Wales, the violence against women movement, and Welsh Women's Aid have been better interpreted, explained, identified and recorded.

Materials generated include digital stories and oral histories collected from survivors of abuse, the revolutionary women who worked tirelessly to create the first refuges and pioneered our movement, as well as the women who have worked in the movement over the past 40 years; along with information and artefacts that tell the story of the movement, its progress and struggles.

Digital stories: We worked with 44 women across Wales from all walks of life and with a vast range of experiences of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and of the Welsh Women's Aid movement itself. Survivors, activists, support staff and others were keen to record and share their stories in order to ensure that they could be accessed as part of the project and in the future for the benefit of us all. These stories have been shared by exhibition (see next section), and online. Each story participant, in addition to sharing their words, also had a hand in developing the visual imagery to accompany their voice. Together, these created very powerful films which we have continued to use in our policy and influencing work across the organisation.

The touring exhibition: The *Forty Voices, Forty Years* touring exhibition started in summer 2018 at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff and initially enabled public access to digital stories and a range of posters

from the forty year period covered. The content of the touring exhibition grew as the project progressed, and as space allowed in the various venues. Attendees were able to listen to and view the digital stories via a specially designed viewing device and headphones. A second device enabled verbal feedback to be recorded from attendees, although opportunities to provide written feedback were also available.



A member of the public listening to a story at the Pierhead building exhibition in Cardiff Bay.

The touring exhibition covered Wales, and was displayed at:

- The National Eisteddfod, the Atrium at University of South Wales (350 attendees)
- Cynon Valley Museum (1,611 attendees)
- Galeri Caernarfon (40 attendees)
- Welfare Hall at Ystradgynlais (210 attendees)
- Swansea University (200 attendees)
- The National Assembly for Wales Oriel (500 attendees)
- Cardiff Bay's Pierhead Building (800 attendees)
- The Cardiff Story Museum (1937 attendees).

We initially hoped to have more of a presence in North Wales but were unfortunately limited by venue availability in the time periods required. We will continue to consider ways that the exhibition can continue to be shared to ensure lasting project benefit and the maximum possible reach.

The total visitor numbers for the touring exhibition was therefore 5,648.

Full exhibition: On 24 January 2019 the launch of the full, month-long exhibition was held at St Fagan's National Museum of History. This was comprised of all touring exhibition content, plus a wide range of

other materials identified, information and artefacts depicting the history of our movement and a timeline of its key moments.

We were pleased to have the support of 2nd year students from the Bachelor of Arts interior design degree course at the University of South Wales during the development process. Each student was asked to pitch their own designs for the structure of the exhibition, which included the use of all elements of the touring exhibition, as well as ideas for displaying additional materials, artefacts and information. This was used as a core component of their course work for the year. The winning design structure was then developed by the students as a group and an element of this can be seen in the image below.

A total of 14,500 visitors entered the museum at the time of the exhibition, all needing to pass the exhibition on arrival, and many of whom directly engaged with the exhibition.



The final exhibition at the National Museum of Wales, St Fagans.

Archive: As a result of the *Forty Voices, Forty Years* project, we have been able to create a comprehensive Welsh Women's Aid archive at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. Now that we have the knowledge and skills in place, we have a process to ensure that going forward on a periodic basis, further key materials will be added to this archive to ensure it is regularly updated. We hope that the archive will be accessed by anyone with an interest in the movement, but particularly academics with an interest in feminism, social and political history, who now have ongoing access to an archive of previously inaccessible resources to complement their knowledge and research.

Access: Online access to digital stories and project materials has been made available via the Welsh Women's Aid website,⁹ YouTube channel¹⁰ and social media platforms (Twitter,¹¹ Facebook,¹² Instagram¹³), as well as the Peoples' Collection of Wales website.¹⁴ Further information about the project was shared at the University of South Wales' annual Storytelling Symposium held in April 2018 and in April 2019, in addition to a student-focused lecture.

2: Survivors of abuse were empowered by the experience of sharing their stories

In total, 18 survivors of abuse contributed their personal experiences via three two-day digital storytelling workshops which were coordinated by Welsh Women's Aid in conjunction with StoryWorks. Of course, many of those contributing their digital stories via the other means, also identify as survivors of violence against women as well as activists and sector workers.

We initially planned for two workshops only, in Cardiff and Wrexham, but these faced some setbacks as due to personal circumstances, some individuals did not attend as planned, preventing us from achieving the numbers we originally hoped for. For some this was a result of sickness and/or personal issues which could not have been avoided. However, this type of activity can be an emotionally difficult process and this may well have contributed to non-attendance, despite our assurance that support would be available.

To compensate for these lower than expected numbers, a third workshop was arranged to take place in Aberystwyth on 23rd and 24th October 2018.

The age of attendees ranged from women in their early 30s to one participant who is 89 years old and was one of the first women to access refuge provision in Ceredigion in the 1970s.

The workshop experience was overwhelmingly reported to be a positive, empowering and restorative one by all those taking part.

Written feedback included:

"It was therapeutic putting my story on paper. Emotional."

"The women, the atmosphere- felt safe. The honesty+ bravery. Respect"

"It was an amazing opportunity to tell my story + to help other women"

⁹ www.welshwomensaid.org.uk [Accessed 24.06.19].

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp5775jOzlZG9Z-c-QRbAOg/videos> [Accessed 24.06.19].

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/welshwomensaid> [Accessed 24.06.19].

¹² <https://www.facebook.com/Welsh-Womens-Aid-146998042522/> [Accessed 24.06.19].

¹³ <https://www.instagram.com/welshwomensaid/> [Accessed 24.06.19].

¹⁴ <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/discover/query/forty%20voices%20forty%20years> [Accessed 24.06.19].



A creative representation of a survivor's story created at one of the StoryWorks workshops.

3: Awareness of issues relating to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and the heritage of the Welsh Women's Aid movement has been increased through improved access.

Those directly participating in the project and the wider public in Wales have had increased access the information and materials that we have gathered during *Forty Voices, Forty Years* via a range of mediums.

- In providing digital stories and revisiting their memories and experiences, a total of **44** individuals developed their knowledge of the heritage of Welsh Women's Aid and the violence against women's movement and how this fits within a wider heritage context.
- **68** volunteers supporting the project, along with **22** Welsh Women's Aid member organisations and their staff, gained an increased understanding of the importance of the heritage of the movement, and an increased sense of pride in their organisations' role in the wider movement.
- More than **20,000** individuals, pupils and students, community groups, and others attended exhibitions and lectures in their local communities and educational spaces hearing powerful survivor stories, learning about the reasons for the movement, the challenges and achievements faced at various times over the past 40 years, and better understand why the sector is still needed.
- Approximately **10,000** individuals accessed project information via online resources and social media.
- More than **130** people have so far engaged in identifying future priorities to prevent violence against women through formal feedback forms/postcards/steering group/recorded responses (gathering feedback and subsequent analysis is still in progress).

4: People have developed new skills as a result of the project

Forty Voices, Forty Years provided project staff and volunteers with important opportunities to learn new heritage-based and wider skills that they used for the benefit of the project, and which can also be utilised in their future lives and careers. This included:

- **4** project staff and **7** volunteers developing a variety of new heritage-based skills including how to digitise materials for museums, libraries and archive; oral history training, and collection and archiving processes.
- **22** volunteers completing stewarding training sessions and assisting in stewarding the exhibition at the various exhibition venues, gaining key skills in engaging with the public in the process.
- **4** additional volunteers assisted the project team by uploading content to the People's Collection Wales website, creating infographics for use on social media to raise public awareness of the project, and sourcing and reviewing materials to be archived for the project.
- In the process of taking part, **18** survivors acquired transferable skills such as interviewing techniques, basic sound recording, and digital story production. They worked with the workshop facilitators to focus on elements of the stories they wished to tell, crafting the written narrative of these stories, creating illustrations to accompany the words, and recording their voices. The skills they acquire will enable them to develop their own simple digital stories in the future should they wish, using mobile phone or other technology.
- Students from the University of South Wales building on their interior design knowledge to design the structure of the final exhibition.
- Students from the University of South Wales building on their animation knowledge by designing visual aspects of some of the digital stories.



Project participants.

IMPACT, SUCCESSES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Impact

We have already begun using the stories collected during this project in our influencing and policy work. We have used survivor stories at events and meetings to convey personal experiences and themes of abuse, at times alongside the survivor so that they do not need to verbally revisit their story. We have had this reported back to us as impactful and persuasive by stakeholders and decision makers and survivors also tell us that they appreciate being able to communicate their story in a different way that also gives them control on the message and a distance from the telling.

We have had excellent feedback from visitors to the exhibition, which includes:

“Makes you realise that we live in our own bubbles”

“The timeline of 40 years of events really helped putting things in context and let us know that what we now take for granted has only been changed for the better a few years ago.”

“Has provoked thought and reflection.”

“Great to hear the stories of women all over Wales.”

“I feel proud and empowered.”

“I never realised how difficult it can be to escape an abusive partner.”

“A fascinating history.”

“So much unknown history! And so vital to know about.”

“My friend brought me this evening to show me I’m not on my own and to speak up.”

“Inspired.”

“Listening to these women’s stories puts it into a real-life context.”



T-shirts decorated by children and survivors at the Forty Voices, 40 Years final exhibition at St Fagan, donated by Newport Women’s Aid

Successes

The project has exceeded all its objectives, outcomes and targets and was also extended on two occasions with extra exhibition spaces being offered in the National Assembly for Wales' Pierhead building gallery in Cardiff Bay and the Cardiff Story Museum in the central city.

One significant success has been the representation of diverse experiences in terms of age, disability, ethnicity and language, and there was work done during the project to encourage people from minoritised communities to encourage them to engage.

The most important success of the project though has been the opportunity to share the history and personal stories of women involved in the movement with members of the public who might not otherwise have been engaged with this work. This also helped survivors come to terms with their own experiences.



Some of the Welsh Women's Aid team and their children in the 1990s.

Lessons Learned

- **Involvement of survivors:** Welsh Women's Aid has significant experience of working with survivors in different ways and often advises others on best practice for this type of engagement. This experience was used throughout the project including ensuring robust safeguarding procedures, training for volunteers on violence against women, involvement of survivors in the project steering group and holding their experiences central to the project.

However, difficulty was encountered around attendance at the survivor story workshops. We had originally planned to hold two workshops to collect a total of 10 survivor stories, but due to illness and personal circumstances, we had significantly less than this. The nature of the survivors' often traumatic experiences very likely added to this non-attendance due to anxieties around reliving their abuse or being triggered. To ensure we received the correct number of stories we then organised a third workshop in mid-Wales, which was another significant extra expense. Learning for future would be to expect more conservative numbers to engage, or more funding for extra workshops to promote engagement.

- **Welsh language:** Every effort was made to ensure equal treatment and prioritisation of the Welsh language throughout this project. All publications and printed work produced were done so bilingually, the project co-ordinator hired was a fluent Welsh speaker, all stories were subtitled in English/Welsh etc. However, only three of the 46 stories were recorded in the Welsh language. This appeared to be because many Welsh language speakers took the decision to speak in English when recording their story. When asked why this was the case, one participant told us it was because she wanted to ensure that as many people as possible were able to listen to her story. Even when assurances were given by the co-ordinator that no preferential treatment would be given to one language over another, this was still the participant's choice.
- **Working with partners:** Overall, we had a very positive relationship with all partners involved in the project. Due to some calendar clashes there were some issues caused during the final exhibition at St Fagans when the structures had to be removed for a brief period to accommodate a prior booked event, and then reinstated. We were concerned that this interrupted the schedule of stories shown and would mean visitors would not be able to see the exhibition for these short periods. This issue was resolved through conversations with the museum management.



WWA Coordinator Jane Hutt and staff celebrating Welsh Women's Aid's 10th Anniversary in 1988.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Inspiring stories about Welsh Women's Aid and the movement in Wales

We are investigating opportunities with the University of South Wales' George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling to further investigate the impact of these stories as they continue to be used through our work and make their own way into the world. We have recently received Impact funding from the university to develop a publication which will showcase the stories and their themes which can also be used to increase their use. We have also begun plans to develop this work into a possible PhD research project focusing on the impact of storytelling to influence policy around violence against women and girls.

We will continue to publicise the project and promote use of the stories, and through this encourage others to add their stories and experiences to this growing archive, both on The People's Collection Wales and at the National Library of Wales.

Finally, we have used the information produced through the project to create a report outlining the history of the Welsh Women's Aid movement over the past forty years. Through this project and associated research, it has been reinforced that this is an area of research and scholarship which has had limited attention, so we hope to inspire further academic work in this area to uncover the marginalised voices of these many inspiring and powerful women. We know these are women who have worked to change Wales for the better in a bid to end violence against women and girls for future generations, and they should continue to be acknowledged and celebrated.

Our sincere thanks to all of those survivors, volunteers, members, staff, students, former workers, activists, partners, funders and leaders who have taken part in this amazing project and have helped to shed more light on the Welsh Women's Aid movement. **Still we rise.**

Appendix 1

Timeline of the Welsh Women's Aid movement and milestones for women's equality

- 1961 Introduction of the **contraceptive pill**.
- 1964 **Married Women's Property Act** revision.
- 1967 **Abortion Act**.
- 1970 **The Equal Pay Act** enshrines the right to equal pay and conditions of employment between women and men.
- 1972 **First women's refuge opens** (London).
- 1973 **First UK Rape Crisis** formed.
Brixton Black Women's Group is formed.
- 1974 **The first Welsh National Women's Liberation Conference is held** (Aberystwyth).
Women's Aid Federation of England is established.
Contraception becomes available through the NHS.
- 1975 **UN International Year of Women**.
First Women's Aid refuge opens in Wales (Cardiff).
Select Committee on Violence in Marriage recommends provision of **one family place per 10,000** of the population for refuges.
Welsh women deliver the first ever petition to the European Parliament calling for women's rights.
Sex Discrimination Act and **Employment Protection Act** introduced.
National Abortion Campaign formed.
- 1976 **The Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act** introduces civil protection orders.
Scottish Women's Aid is established.
- 1977 **The Housing (Homeless Persons) Act** accepts domestic violence as a criteria for priority housing status.
International Women's Day is formalised by the UN General Assembly.
First Rape Crisis centre opens (London).
First Reclaim the Night march (Edinburgh).
- 1978 **Welsh Women's Aid is established** with a grant from the Welsh Office to co-ordinate the work and campaigns of Women's Aid groups on a national basis.
Norther Ireland Women's Aid Federation is established.
Organisation of Women of Asian and African Descent (OWAAD) founded.
- 1979 **First Welsh Women's Aid National Conference** (Builth Wells).
Southall Black Sisters formed.
- 1980 **Women working at Hoover take strike action against 'women out first'** redundancy plans (Merthyr Tydfil).
Women can **apply for a loan or credit** in their own name.

- 300 Group founded.
- 1981 **Barn Merched/Women's View** established - a Welsh Women's Aid bilingual quarterly, public journal.
The Welsh group Women for Life on Earth **march from Cardiff to Greenham Common**.
Shocking Pink Collective set up.
- 1982 **Crying Inside** – a Welsh Women's Aid-produced film about the problems survivors face and life in refuge.
Welsh Women's Aid's Rural Week of Action highlights the problems that survivors and services in rural areas face.
March against Women's Unemployment sets out from Pontypridd.
- 1983 **Break** – a Welsh Women's Aid-produced film about children's experiences of violence and their feelings about living in refuge, funded by the Welsh Arts Council.
Welsh Women's Aid begins work to **address the sexual abuse of children**.
Welsh Women's Aid comments on **The Divorce Reform Bill** and raises the issue of **funding** for refugees.
- 1984 Welsh Women's Aid **office to serve rural areas established** with a part time coordinator based in Aberystwyth.
Women Against Pit Closures formed – women and children set up support groups during the miners' strike.
- 1985 **'Opening the Town Hall Door'** written by Welsh Women's Aid - a guide to local government for voluntary organisations, action groups and individuals.
The Equal Pay (Amendment) Act allows women to be paid the same as men for work of equal value.
The Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act makes FGM a crime.
- 1986 **Funding Women's Aid in Rural Wales** – a Welsh Women's Aid report describes the specific difficulties facing services in rural Wales.
Changes announced to social security lead to Welsh Women's Aid securing funding for a specific welfare rights post, to focus on lobbying, policy development and training.
The Answer is Maybe... and That's Final – a Welsh Women's Aid report on the attitudes of local authorities to the housing needs of women and children moving on from refuge.
National demonstration against domestic abuse is organised by a network of women.
The **first Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)** for England and Wales was established in St Marys Hospital, Manchester.
Shakti Women's Aid is set up.
- 1987 Welsh Women's Aid **Charitable Trust established**.
- 1988 Welsh Women's Aid organise an **international conference** on violence against women in the home.
Welsh Women's Aid campaigns against **changes to legal aid**.
Welsh Women's Aid calls on members to write to their MP about **board and lodging payments**.
- 1989 **The Children Act 1989** places emphasis on child protection and parental responsibility but does not account for the impact of domestic abuse on children's safety.
Welsh Women's Aid launch a campaign to **exempt women in refuges from poll tax**.
- 1991 **Rape within marriage** becomes a crime.

- 1992 Welsh Women’s Aid launch a campaign to **exempt women from benefit sanctions** if they were too frightened to name the father of the children for fear of repercussion.
- Welsh Women’s Aid partnership with Save the Children fund a **work pack for schools on domestic abuse**.
- Home Affairs Select Committee Enquiry into Domestic Violence** recommends that funding for refuge is the most important action the government can take.
- The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women** affirms that violence against women violates human rights.
- 1995 With support from Welsh Women’s Aid, **Bawso** launches as a Black and minority ethnic specialist provider of services tackling domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women in Wales.
- South Glamorgan County Council’s Women’s Committee and Welsh Women’s Aid launch the **No Excuses campaign**, backed by the ground breaking domestic abuse storyline on Channel 4 programme ‘Brookside’.
- 1996 **The Family Law Act (1996) Part IV** consolidated the provision of non-molestation orders and occupation orders (injunctions) in cases of domestic abuse between associated persons and introduced automatic powers of arrest where violence had been used or threatened.
- 1997 **Devolution referendum, Wales votes ‘yes’ to create National Assembly for Wales.**
- Protection from Harassment Act (1977)** – “The legislation was always intended to tackle stalking, but the offences were drafted to tackle any form of persistent conduct which causes another person alarm or distress.”
- 1998 **Government of Wales Act 1998 establishes the National Assembly for Wales.**
- The UK Government passes the **Human Rights Act**, an important tool to defend women and girls from violence.
- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998** leads to the analysis of local crime patterns, and formation of community safety partnerships, which highlighted the scale of domestic and sexual abuse.
- 1999 The House of Lords delivers a historic judgement that **women who fear gender persecution should be recognised as refugees.**
- Welsh Women’s Aid conference ‘Domestic Violence, Making a Difference in the Millennium’.**
- Welsh Women’s Aid gives written and oral evidence to the Welsh Affairs Select Committee of MPs on **Social Exclusion** in Wales.
- 2000 Welsh Women’s Aid lobbies for **priority need status within homelessness** legislation for survivors of domestic abuse.
- Welsh Women’s Aid lobbies the National Assembly for Wales, which leads to the retention of **funding to support people without local connection**, protecting refuge funding for women travelling to escape violence.
- Welsh Women’s Aid **consults with CAF/CASS** on how children can best be enabled to participate in proceedings concerning them.
- Welsh Women’s Aid and Benefits Agency meetings lead to new **guidance to benefits staff** on the importance of confidentiality and special procedures where the claimant is at risk.
- 2003 **The Supporting People Act** is introduced.
- The Sexual Offences Act** gives consent a legal definition in England and Wales.
- The Female Genital Mutilation Act** strengthens and amends the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act of 1985.

- 2004 **The Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline** is launched by Welsh Women’s Aid.
- The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act** makes common assault an arrestable offence.
- 2005 **The first Sexual Assault Referral Centre opens in Wales**, the first in the country to be run by the third sector.
- ‘Tackling Domestic Abuse; a Partnership Approach’** was launched by the Welsh Government.
- 23 **Specialist Domestic Violence Courts** are established in England and Wales.
- 2007 Welsh Women’s Aid launch the **Children Matter** project.
- The Welsh Women’s Aid Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline operates on a **24 hour basis** for the first time.
- EHRC research ‘Who do you see?’ Living together in Wales finds that **19% of the Welsh population believe domestic abuse is best handled as a private matter**.
- Amnesty International Wales survey** with Welsh students finds that 24% think a woman is totally or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she is drunk.
- 2009 The Wales Violence against Women Action Group, of which Welsh Women’s Aid is secretariat, is established as a campaigning group and secure a commitment from the Welsh Assembly Government to develop a **Violence against Women Strategy in Wales**, resulting in Wales’s first Strategy and Action Plan.
- 2010 Wales first national Strategy to tackle violence against women - **Right to be Safe published**.
- 2011 Welsh Women’s Aid **constitution extends** to include domestic abuse and all forms of violence against women.
- Welsh Women’s Aid’s campaigning contributes to the announcement of the **Ending Violence against Women and Domestic Abuse (Wales) Bill** (now Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act).
- A rebranded **Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline** is launched, which provides 24 hour / 7 days a week bilingual support for survivors of sexual and domestic abuse.
- Welsh Women’s Aid works with the University of Glamorgan and Disability Wales to look at the **experiences of disabled survivors of abuse**.
- 2012 **The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012** removes almost all private family law areas from the scope of civil legal aid, making it much harder for survivors of domestic abuse to access.
- 2013 **Campaigning on the Ending Violence against Women and Domestic Abuse (Wales) Bill** results in ten of Welsh Women’s Aid’s recommendations being included in the White Paper.
- 2014 Joint campaign with Women’s Aid Federation of England on the **effects of welfare reform** on survivors of domestic abuse.
- Clare’s law** is introduced allowing police to disclose details of an abusive partner’s past.
- 2015 Following campaigning from the sector, the **Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015** strengthens its educational focus, and introducing statutory duties around prevention, provision and protection for the devolved public sector in Wales including a statutory duty to prevent violence against women and girls.
- Welsh Women’s Aid writes the **Good Practice Guide: A Whole Education Approach** to preventing Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Wales, issued by Welsh Government.
- Coercive control** becomes a criminal offence in England and Wales.
- The All Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline, run by Welsh Women’s Aid on behalf of the Welsh Government, is rebranded as the **Live Fear Free Helpline**.

Welsh Women's Aid establishes National Training Service partnership and pilots **'Ask and Act' Train the Trainer**.

Welsh Women's Aid launches **Save Refugees, Save Lives**: a campaign that calls for specialist services' funding in Wales to be protected.

Welsh Women's Aid National Conference ('Still We Rise') welcomes UN Violence Against Women Special Rapporteur Rashida Manjoo, and launches an Ambassador programme.

Welsh Women's Aid consults with services and survivors, and works with sister Federation in England, to create **"Change That Lasts"**, a new model to promote systems change in local communities.

Welsh Women's Aid successfully pilots **National Quality Service Standards**.

2016 Welsh Women's Aid works in partnership with NSPCC Cymru, Cardiff University and the office of the Children's Commissioner to create **AGENDA: A Young People's Guide to Making Positive Relationships Matter**.

Welsh Women's Aid seminar **Domestic abuse: responding to coercive control in Wales**, featuring Professor Evan Stark.

Welsh Government publish their **National Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2016-2021**.

Welsh Women's Aid lobbies MPs on **survivors' experiences of the family courts** and informed the review 'Practice Direction 12J: child arrangements & contact order: domestic violence and harm'.

Welsh Women's Aid published **'Are You Listening, Am I Being Heard'** report on the recommendations of survivors of violence against women in partnership with the National Adviser on Violence against Women, following a number of focus groups held with 66 survivors across Wales.

Welsh Women's Aid works in partnership with Women's Aid Federation of England, Scottish Women's Aid, Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland and IC Change to **campaign on ratification of the Istanbul Convention**.

2017 Welsh Women's Aid launch the survivor participation pilot project SEEdS (Survivors Empowering and Educating Services).

Estyn review of healthy relationships education in Welsh schools has found that schools are not allocating enough time or importance to educating and supporting children to develop safe, healthy and respectful relationships from a young age.

The so-called **two child tax credit 'rape clause'** introduces an exemption where women have to disclose their experience of rape. Welsh Women's Aid and the women's sector campaign against it.

The Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Ratification of Convention) Act 2017 requires the UK Government to set a timeline for ratification of the Istanbul Convention, after campaigning from Welsh Women's Aid and the women's sector.

The Live Fear Free Helpline introduces **webchat**.

Publication of **The Future of the Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Curriculum in Wales: Recommendations of the Sex and Relationships Education Expert Panel 2018**; Welsh Women's Aid was a member of the expert panel.

2018 International Time's Up movement launched as a unified call for change - calling time on sexual assault, harassment and inequality. **Welsh Women's Aid publish Press for Progress statement** signed by over 180 women in Wales and holds its **first Time's Up Dialogue session**.

Seminar to explore **supporting women who are exploited by the sex industry** held by Welsh Women's Aid and partners in Wales.

After campaigning from the sector, Welsh Government announces that **Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) will become a statutory part of Wales' new curriculum** for children aged five to 16, from 2022.

Welsh Women's Aid works with female art collective HEXX and Processions to create a banner and take part in a mass participation artwork to celebrate one **hundred years of votes for women**.

First Minister, Carwyn Jones announces **Welsh Government commitment to the Istanbul Convention** and that the Welsh Government is a **feminist government**.

Future 40 National Conference, Welsh Women's Aid's National Conference, looked forward to the future forty years.

Welsh Government publishes National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence **Cross Government Delivery Framework 2018-2021**.

Welsh Women's Aid mark 40th anniversary – 40 Voices 40 Years project.¹⁵

¹⁵ Compiled with the help of the British Library 'Timeline of the Women's Liberation Movement' <https://www.bl.uk/sisterhood/timeline> (accessed Jan 2019) and research from the Forty Voices, Forty Years project.

Appendix 2: Story catalogue

This collection of digital stories and oral histories were created for the *Forty Voices, Forty Years* project. *Forty Voices, Forty Years* was a heritage project led by Welsh Women’s Aid in collaboration with the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling at the University of South Wales. The project aims was to capture a hidden history and celebrate the 40th anniversary of Welsh Women’s Aid and commemorate the work of the women’s aid and the violence against women movement in Wales. It will do this with a collection of oral histories, digital stories, workshops, an exhibition and archive materials from women and services. The project’s participants were interviewed and edited by Project Associate Catrin James.

The project will not only enhance our understanding of the violence against women movement in Wales, but also improve community knowledge about these types of abuse and our work to prevent it. We also want to encourage reflection on our future priorities as a movement, as we work towards our shared goal of eradicating violence against women once and for all.

1.	<p>Sue Bowyer</p> <p>Sue worked for Welsh Women’s Aid in the 1980s and 1990s. She shares her story about writing housing policy for Welsh Women’s Aid</p> <p>14 May 2018</p>	interview	
2.	<p>Jane Hutt</p> <p>Jane shares her story about being the first co-ordinator for Welsh Women’s Aid in 1978 and the influence her work had on the violence against women movement at this time.</p> <p>25 May 2018</p>	interview	
3.	<p>Lynne Sanders</p> <p>Lynne is CEO of Swansea Women’s Aid. Lynne explains how she joined the violence against women movement and gives a description of her working life.</p> <p>4 June 2018</p>	interview	
4.	<p>Natasha Hirst</p>	interview	

	Natasha shares her story about going into refuge. 14 June 2018		
5.	Cathy Elder Cathy shares her thoughts on feminism in Wales in the late 1970s and what inspired her feminist approach as a young woman at this time. 10 May 2018	interview	
6.	Elwen Roberts Mae Elwen yn disgrifio sut naeth Cymorth i Ferched Cymru helpu hi ai blant yn yr 80au hwyr i symud o loches i loches yn Ogledd Cymru. 3 July 2018	interview	welsh
7.	Rose Davies Rose describes how she set up a squat for homeless women and children in early 1970s Swansea. 26 July 2018	interview	
8.	Anonymous 'The War Wounds of a Military Wife'. An anonymous story donated to the 40 Voices 40 Years project with animation created by 1st year animation students from the University of Wales 21 November 2018	interview	
9.	Ann Williams Ann yw rheolwr Llinell Byw Heb Ofn. Mae'r llinell gyfrinachol yma yn gwasanaeth 24 awr sy'n rhoi cymorth pobl sy'n profil cham-drin domestig, trais rhywiol yn erbyn menywod. Mae Ann yn disgrifio beth mae hi'n neud yn eu swydd. 7 August 2018	interview	welsh

10.	<p>Haf & Angela</p> <p>Angela and Haf work and volunteer for the Live Fear Free Helpline which is a 24 hour confidential helpline to support women who are experiencing domestic abuse, sexual violence or violence against women. Angela and Haf share the work they do at the helpline.</p> <p>7 August 2018</p>	interview	welsh
11.	<p>Roz Waterhouse</p> <p>Roz was the first children's worker for Cardiff Women's Aid in the late 1970s. Roz shares stories of her time working with children and in refuges in Cardiff.</p> <p>13 August 2018</p>	interview	
12.	<p>Mandy Kermas</p> <p>Mandy has worked for Newport Women's Aid for 25 years. Mandy shares her story of surviving domestic abuse and starting refuge and support work.</p> <p>23 August 2018</p>	interview	
13.	<p>Rebecca Haycock</p> <p>Rebecca is the Regional Advisor for Gwent for Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV), Safeguarding Unit, Children & Families at Newport County Council. Rebecca describes her role and the work she delivers.</p> <p>6 September 2018</p>	interview	
14.	<p>Jen Wilson</p> <p>Jen is the creator of the Women's Jazz Archive Wales. Jen shares what feminism meant to her as a young female musician in south Wales the 1960s and 1970s.</p>	interview	

	1 October 2018		
15.	<p>Eleri Butler</p> <p>Eleri is CEO of Welsh Women's Aid. Eleri shares what inspired and influenced her to work creating change to prevent violence against women. Eleri also shares the changes made in the movement over the last 3 decades and her hopes for the future.</p> <p>2 October 2018</p>	interview	
16.	<p>Mwenya Chimba</p> <p>Mwenya is head of training for Welsh Women's Aid and previously has worked for BAWSO. Mwenya shares her thoughts on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.</p> <p>2 October 2018</p>	interview	
17.	<p>Steff Gready</p> <p>Steff shares her story about how the Welsh women at the Greenham Peace Camp in the early 1980s influenced her to leave the army and become a feminist. Steff also shares that she was brought up in a violent household and how a friend who worked for Welsh Women's Aid changed her life.</p> <p>2 October 2018</p>	interview	
18.	<p>Women's Archive Wales</p> <p>Women's Archive Wales & friends sing a song on the re-enactment event of the March to Greenham Common which was organised by WAW.</p> <p>27 August 2018</p>	interview	
19.	<p>Deborah Checkland</p> <p>Deborah was a founding member of the Swansea Women's Centre in the mid 1970s. Deborah shares what</p>	interview	

	services the centre offered and the political feminist climate of the time. 18 October 2018		
20.	Jemma Wray Jemma is the National Head of Children in Need Wales. Jemma shares her feminist influences and her thoughts on the domestic violence, domestic abuse and sexual abuse movement and how to change it. 7 November 2018	interview	
21.	Karmen Thomas Karmen founded 'Women for Life on Earth' who were the first group of women who marched to Greenham Common in the early 1980s. Karmen shares how she did this with the help of friends. 8 November 2018	interview	
22.	Shereen Williams Shereen is Connected Communities Manager for Newport and Monmouth County Council. Shereen shares her passions about social justice in diverse cultures and religions and how it feeds into her work supporting the BME community of the Newport and Monmouthshire areas. 27 November 2018	interview	
23.	Rachel Williams Rachel is an ambassador of Welsh Women's Aid. Rachel shares her story of surviving being shot by her then husband, her recovery and how her experience is now helping other women who have experienced domestic abuse. 3 December 2018	interview	
24.	Angelina Rodriguez	interview	

	<p>Angelina was Deputy CE of BAWSO from 2001-18. Angelina worked at National and International level in partnership with various organisations to improve policy and practice for black and ethnic minority women and girls. Angelina shares her experiences working for BAWSO, the projects she has worked on and the services she developed for BME women in Wales.</p> <p>4 December 2018</p>		
25.	<p>Shavanah Taj</p> <p>Shavanah is Secretary and National Officer for Wales and the South West at PCS Trade Union and Trustee for The Henna Foundation. Shavanah shares her work and passion for equality and human rights.</p> <p>12 December 2018</p>	interview	
26.	<p>Sarah's Story – Aberystwyth</p> <p>Sarah shares her story of surviving domestic abuse.</p> <p>24 October 2018</p>	workshop	
27.	<p>Tannith's Story – Aberystwyth</p> <p>Tannith shares the story of how she and her daughters survived domestic abuse.</p> <p>24 October 2018</p>	workshop	
28.	<p>Margaret's Story – Aberystwyth</p> <p>Margaret shares a story of surviving domestic abuse and cancer and the different behaviours that happen in public and private.</p> <p>24 October 2018</p>	workshop	
29.	<p>Lorna's Story – Aberystwyth</p> <p>Lorna shares a story of surviving domestic abuse as both a child and an adult.</p>	workshop	

	24 October 2018		
30.	Joan's Story – Aberystwyth Joan shares the story of how she decided to leave an abusive marriage after 30 years. 24 October 2018	workshop	
31.	Jenni's Story – Aberystwyth Jenni discusses recurring memories of rape. 24 October 2018	workshop	
32.	Kara's Story – Aberystwyth Kara shares a story of what having a safe home of her own means to her. 24 October 2018	workshop	
33.	Caryl's Story – Aberystwyth Caryl shares a story of the control within an abusive relationship. 24 October 2018	workshop	
34.	Angela's Story – Aberystwyth Angela shares a story of entering refuge and then establishing a community of support amongst women. 24 October 2018	workshop	
35.	Lisa's Story – Wrexham Lisa shares a story of about the difficulties of leaving an abusive relationship in a rural location. 17 May 2018	workshop	
36.	Vicky's Story – Cardiff Vicky shares a story of how she is sharing her own experience in order to help other women find strength. 21 June 2018	workshop	
37.	Kate's Story – Cardiff	workshop	

	<p>Kate talks of the long journey that she has taken to leave an abusive relationship.</p> <p>21 June 2018</p>		
38.	<p>Sarah's Story - Wrexham (interview)</p> <p>Sarah shares a story of the help she found at Wrexham refuge.</p> <p>17 May 2018</p>	workshop	
39.	<p>Bethan's Story – Cardiff</p> <p>Bethan shares a story about her award winning play exploring stories of domestic abuse.</p> <p>21 June 2018</p>	workshop	
40.	<p>Bethan's Story - Cardiff (interview)</p> <p>Bethan discusses her work exploring stories of domestic abuse.</p> <p>21 June 2018</p>	workshop	
41.	<p>Debbie's Story – Cardiff</p> <p>Debbie shares a story of domestic abuse within the military.</p> <p>21 June 2018</p>	workshop	
42.	<p>Debbie's Story - Cardiff (interview)</p> <p>Debbie discusses her experiences as a military wife.</p> <p>21 June 2018</p>	workshop	
43.	<p>Claire's Story – Wrexham</p> <p>Claire shares a story of how she realised her potential through engagement with Welsh Women's Aid.</p> <p>17 May 2018</p>	workshop	
44.	<p>Claire's Story - Wrexham (interview)</p> <p>Claire discusses the impact of coercive control.</p> <p>17 May 2018</p>	workshop	

45.	<p>Katie's Story – Cardiff</p> <p>Katie shares a story of the need to have her children's voices heard within family courts.</p> <p>21 June 2018</p>	workshop	
46.	<p>Katie's Story - Cardiff (interview)</p> <p>Katie discusses her experiences of the family courts.</p> <p>21 June 2018</p>	workshop	

40 Forty Voices Forty Years

Forty Voices, Forty Years is an exciting project which commemorates 40 years of Welsh Women's Aid and recognises that women's memories, voices and lives are often written out of our national heritage. To counteract this, we've been visiting women across Wales who have been involved in the movement over the past 40 years, recording their thoughts and memories.

Come along and listen to these fascinating digital stories, and view objects and materials representing aspects of this powerful movement, at the venues listed below and on an online gallery hosted by the People's Collection of Wales.

Wednesday 19th September - Friday 5th October
Cynon Valley Museum, Aberdare

Monday 8th October - Friday 12th October
University of South Wales, Atrium Campus (Cardiff)

Wednesday 15th October - Friday 2nd November
Galeri Caernarfon, Caernarfon

Tuesday 6th November - Thursday 22nd November
The Welfare Hall Ystradgynlais

Monday 26th November - Monday 10th December
Swansea University

Friday 25th January - Monday 25th February
St Fagans National Museum of History

Logos:
 - Women's Aid Cymru / Welsh Women's Aid
 - Cymorth i Ferched Cymru / Welsh Women's Aid
 - People's Collection of Wales
 - hanfod cymru
 - Funding raised by The National Lottery
 - Cyllid a godwyd gan Y Lloerwr Genedlaethol
 - YS 1000

Deugain llais Deugain mlynedd

Mae Deugain Llais, Deugain Mlynedd yn brosiect cyffrous sy'n coffáu 40 mlynedd o waith Cymorth i Ferched Cymru ac sy'n cydnabod y caiff atgofion, lleisiau a bywydau menywod yn aml eu hepgor o'n treftadaeth genedlaethol. I fynd yn groes i hyn, buom yn ymweld â menywod ar draws Cymru a fu'n rhan o'r mudiad dros y 40 mlynedd ddiwethaf, gan recordio'u meddyliau a'u hatgofion.

Dewch i wrando ar y straeon digidol hynod ddiddorol hyn, a bwrw golwg ar wrthrychau a deunyddiau sy'n cynrychioli agweddau ar y mudiad pwerau hwn, yn y manau a restrir isod ac yn oriel ar-lein gwefan Casgliad y Werin Cymru.

Dydd Mercher 19 Medi - Dydd Gwener 5 Hydref
Amgueddfa Cwm Cynon, Aberdar

Dydd Llun 8 Hydref - Dydd Gwener 12 Hydref
Prifysgol De Cymru, Campws Atrium (Caerdydd)

Dydd Mercher 15 Hydref - Dydd Gwener 2 Tachwedd
Galeri Caernarfon, Caernarfon

Dydd Mawrth 6 Tachwedd - Dydd Iau 22 Tachwedd
Y Neuadd Les

Dydd Llun 26 Tachwedd - Dydd Llun 10 Rhagfyr
Prifysgol Abertawe

Dydd Gwener 25 Ionawr - Dydd Llun 25 Chwefror
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Ideas from Wales to end violence against women

During Welsh Women's Aid's 40th anniversary year in 2018 we asked the public to tell us about their priorities for ending violence against women and girls in the **next** 40 years.

We had an overwhelming response to our campaign from hundreds of people across Wales who told us their priorities were:

1. Healthy Relationships education
2. Addressing inequality and harmful social attitudes
3. Informed and committed leaders and champions
4. Early intervention and prevention
5. Stay survivor centred
6. Accessible, trauma informed services
7. Sustainable specialist services
8. Safe perpetrator interventions
9. Reform in the criminal justice system

This is what respondents told us:

1. Healthy Relationships education:

- *"Educate young men of school leaving age before they have sexual relationships"*
- *"Education for children of all ages"*
- *"Educate young men that it is no acceptable"*
- *"Break the cycle. Fund education to awareness starting at primary school level."*
- *"Challenging schools to talk and discuss issues about VAWAG and the norms around how girls and boys behave"*
- *"Services in Uni + schools"*

- *“Better education in schools about relationships”*
- *“Education in schools for young people about relationships abuse + gender imbalance”*
- *“To educate all children about what a healthy relationship is early years education”*
- *“Education for healthy relationships - boundary setting for children”*
- *“Education; gender expectations + the impact on VAWDSV”*
- *“More DV+SV trained workers + volunteers within our schools raising awareness + proudly support”*

2. Addressing inequality and harmful social attitudes:

- *“Changing societies attitude towards women in general”*
- *“Educating people about this. Awareness groups”*
- *“Being able to speak up without feeling guilty”*
- *“Pop stars sell records with sex, fashion follows and young girls copy their role models educate young girls too”*
- *“Awareness campaigns”*
- *“Re-educate TV soaps and dramas showing violence, drugs”*
- *“More examples of correct behaviour and support of women and children”*
- *“Advocate for real equality”*
- *“Educate - workplace, schools, home, nightclubs, taxis, councils, NHS, Parliament, Prisons”*
- *“Mentors for young women for how to be confident to break stereotypes and be empowered”*
- *“More highlight of domestic abuse, specifically emotional abuse in the media”*
- *“Free childcare for all children up to 16 years of age so women can work and live independently”*
- *“Equal pay across gender / sexuality”*
- *“Ban objectification of women - TV, advertising etc.”*
- *“Ban gender stereotyping”*
- *“structural + social change around gender equality needs to happen”*
- *“More campaigns to stop perpetrators + accountable services”*
- *“Communication into communities and educate all people about DA”*
- *“We need a change in culture that is not tolerant of women and girls' abuse (eg harassment, objectification, sexism etc.)”*
- *“More involvement outside of the DV and professional world. Community based”*
- *“Positive role modelling for males”*

3. Informed and committed leaders and champions:

- *“Educating AMs and MPs”*
- *“More women involved in politics locally and nationally”*
- *“Policy makers, legislators, commissioners to take time to understand causes and consequences of VAW. If they don't understand they should create commission”*
- *“Deliver on a truly integrated VAWG strategy”*

4. Early intervention and prevention:

- *“Parenting support as early intervention to prevent exposure to violent or chaotic parenting”*
- *“Preventative work with boys and men who have poor mental health or indicating risky behaviours”*

- *“A campaign with clear messages for family and friends on how to spot unhealthy relationship and provide support”*
- *“Fund support to programmes for 13-18 years”*
- *“Separate funding for joined up preventative initiatives”*
- *“Investing in companies to look out for lots of domestic violence (sick leave) support around this”*
- *“More funding for specialist agencies to invest in support/education”*
- *“Support for children”*
- *“Training for professionals working with children to identify those impacted by VAWSADV”*
- *“Intervention at childhood dedicated person of trust to enable children to talk safely”*

5. Stay survivor centred:

- *“Tell if you are a survivor, help tell someone - get involved, use your voice”*
- *“Police to take it more seriously when a complaint is made”*
- *“Listen to survivors - amplify their voices”*
- *“Provision of support for victims with domestic violence not within the MARAC threshold”*
- *“Better support, work support for survivors, particularly of sexual violence”*
- *“To not outcast survivors of VAW, actively listen to them”*
- *“Survivors networking”*
- *“More SEEdS for speaking engagements”*
- *“Provide options. Survivors want more than just one place they can go and they don't need to be blocked by remits”*

6. Accessible, trauma informed services:

- *“After care support”*
- *“Training for health professionals”*
- *“DV training for statutory agencies – police”*
- *“Work with CAFCAS who further disadvantage women in court process”*
- *“Ensure women have access to safe spaces, resources and services”*
- *“Secure specialist refuge to include, substance misuse, mental health, disabilities, travellers”*
- *“Ensure that women with no recourse to public funds can access to refuges”*
- *“Self-contained refuge”*
- *“Refuge, no recourse to public funds, black minority ethnic”*
- *“Addressing victim-blaming culture, across services i.e. awareness on victims to protect”*
- *“Survivors should not have to rely on support workers to deal with trauma. Invest in psychological therapies”*

7. Sustainable specialist services:

- *“Properly fund local women's services to provide specialist service”*
- *“Work with local organisations”*
- *“More services to support and help families”*
- *“Funding sustainable for specialist third sector groups”*
- *“Secure funding for women support services”*
- *“More refuges”*
- *“Maintain funding for specialist domestic abuse services”*

- *“Really invest in specialist women service so that they have long term sustainable funding that obliged them to retain investing staff”*
- *“Addressing funding imbalance for the sector. Not women's sector, it's a male violence problem”*
- *“Sustainable funding for frontline services”*
- *“Proper funding, why are we vying with other valued services”*
- *“More funding in regards to women being able to access refuge travel funds, more refuges, dispersed units etc.”*
- *“More funding/services to reduce the difficulty of those impacted to access services”*

8. Safe perpetrator interventions:

- *“Some form of punishment or training because while the DV victim still suffers afterward being homeless the effects the DV and many other just for that person to get away and live as normal specially for mental abuse (all abuse) seems unfair.”*
- *“Perpetrator programmes”*
- *“More groups for perpetrators to prevent”*
- *“More rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators”*
- *“Perpetrator focused support”*
- *“Perpetrator accountability without shying away from feminist model i.e. toxic masculinity etc.”*

9. Reform in the criminal justice system:

- *“More powers for the police to act when they are called out”*
- *“Easier application / access for legal aid”*
- *“Harsher punishments for perpetrators in the court system”*
- *“Enforce stronger consequences for those who breach bail terms, as my ex did many times. Perhaps ankle tags or CCTV for victims’ homes/cars for evidence.”*
- *“Tackle the ineffective family court system. There’s not legal help for many women.”*
- *“Tackle the hollow child maintenance service. It can force women to stay / return for lack of money from parent”*
- *“The police need more resources to fully support women. The P.I.N is not effective enough”*
- *“Police need to act on current DV laws to enforce penalties for abuse, ignoring new laws”*
- *“DV should be recognised in family court to protect women and children from being further abused because of child contact”*
- *“More training for police, to take it more seriously”*
- *“Accountability to the courts to get it right”*
- *“Better sentencing for perpetrators”*

This feedback is being used to shape our work going forwards and is also reflected in the priorities of our new organisational strategy ‘Still we Rise’.

Our priorities 2019-2024

1. Preventing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence from happening in the first place

We are committed to primary prevention, which involves education to change attitudes and perceptions, to prevent abuse from happening in the first place. It can be targeted universally or at specific groups, such as children or members of a particular community. Prevention work requires a commitment to challenging and changing the social and cultural norms, systems and structures that perpetuate abuse, harms and inequalities. Prevention work also needs to address the fact that violence against women and girls is structural and one of the social mechanisms that forces the subordination of women and girls in society. For this reason, working to further women's and girls' liberation, to challenge and dismantle gendered social norms and expectations, and to dismantle patriarchy and other systems of oppression is a key means of achieving its prevention.

2. Ensuring provision of quality services for survivors that build on strengths, meet needs and reduce the harmful effects of abuse over time

We are committed to providing excellent member services and support which helps specialist services deliver quality provision, as centres of excellence in their communities. Effective provision is dependent on identifying as early as possible those who are likely to experience abuse, and to provide high quality resources and support to prevent further abuse and reduce its impact ("secondary prevention"). Effective provision is also dependent on providing longer term support and advocacy to reduce the trauma and harm caused by more prolonged exposure to violence and abuse, which is often cumulative for women and girls ("tertiary prevention").

3. Creating effective partnerships with survivors, specialist services and others to strengthen our movement to achieve change that lasts

We are committed to amplifying the diverse experiences of survivors and to developing and collaborating in partnership in a way that upholds our values and demonstrates mutual respect, transparency, honesty and integrity, which underpins all our work. By focussing on collaboration to improve responses for those who experience multiple discrimination – Black and minoritised women, lesbians, disabled women, migrant women, young people, older women, trans women - we aim to improve access to support and justice for all survivors of abuse.

Central to all our work are the voices and experiences of survivors of abuse, those who live daily surviving abuse or with the legacy of its impact, who work within our movement, use services or do not, who become community activists or work within other agencies.




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