



Llinell Gymorth Live Fear
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Cymorth i Ferched Cymru
Welsh Women's Aid

VAWDASV National Advisers
Welsh Government
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

14th July 2022

Dear Johanna Robinson and Yasmin Khan,

On behalf of Welsh Women's Aid, I would like to take this opportunity to offer our congratulations on your appointments to the role of National Advisor for Violence Against Women, Gender-Based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence for the term 2022 – 2025.

Since the role of VAWDASV National Advisor was established in 2015, Welsh Women's Aid and our members have offered strategic insight and consultation on the status of the sector in Wales, advocating for the women and children that our member services support every day. Through this process, we have welcomed the Welsh Government's ongoing commitment to ending VAWG in all its forms in Wales, most recently with the publication of the latest VAWDASV strategy in May.

Whilst we all committed to achieving this goal, you will both be aware that some big challenges remain. Specialist services that work to support survivors are currently doing so in a developing 'post-pandemic' landscape, against an escalating cost-of-living crisis, navigating short term, insecure funding cycles.

We are also witnessing epidemic rates of violence and abuse that far too many are experiencing - such as many migrant survivors, who are still unable to access even fundamental levels of sanctuary and safety. We see the unique and powerful potential of the National Advisor role in facilitating change and ensuring cohesion and consistency in the support and commitment offered to survivors, regardless of where they live in Wales.

As a priority, we would like to ask you both to review sector calls for the implementation of a sustainable funding model which would ensure services have the capacity and flexibility to meet the escalating needs of

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those who seek support.

We would also urge the National Advisors to ensure that migrant women are not left behind because of a lack of recourse to public funds and that any VAWDASV Blueprint centres the needs and requirements of all women in Wales, and not just those with settled status.

The wealth of experience you both bring to this role, from ongoing strategic advice to in-depth knowledge of front-line and by-and-for services, will be a huge asset to the work of Welsh Government in ending gender-based violence. I look forward to working closely together in our combined efforts to end violence against women and girls in Wales.

Kind regards,

Sara Kirkpatrick, CEO Welsh Women's Aid.

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