



News update: October 2020

Launch of *'A space to learn about relationships'*

Advance launched its report *'A space to learn about relationships'* on the 29th September 2020 at our Virtual event. We were pleased to be joined by Keynote speakers **Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor of Policing and Crime** and **Nicole Jacobs, Domestic Abuse Commissioner** and a Panel of Experts from Standing Committee for Youth Justice, Agenda, Women and Girls Network, Lloyds Foundation and Advance.

Our report builds on the limited research that exists about young women and girls' early sexual experiences and their impact.

[Read full report](#)

Advance calls for:

- Improved education of young people and girls aged 11+ about healthy relationships and consent



The social factors influencing early sexual relationships among young women who have been involved in the criminal justice system and the health impacts.



- Investment in safe spaces and community-based specialist services for girls and young women to access support
- Increased awareness and tools for parents and the community about healthy relationships and consent
- A gendered approach to inform policy and practice, including training for criminal justice practitioners and statutory services in contact with girls and young women

[Watch event in full](#)

A day in the life of a *Domestic Abuse Housing Advocate: Jessie's Diary*

Our home should be a place of safety, but that is not the case for women and children suffering domestic abuse. When a woman flees to safety, she is often also leaving her home. This transition can be long, difficult and uncertain and can therefore be a key barrier to her leaving. Advance's specialist Housing Domestic Abuse Advocates are able to listen and offer practical and emotional support, including housing options whether in her current home or a new place. Here Jessie talks about her work with Advance.



[Read Jessie's diary here](#)

Advance and its partners are launching the **Whole Housing Approach** toolkit on **November 5th, 1-3pm**, and you can join us to find out more at our virtual event. The Whole Housing Approach brings together domestic abuse systems leaders who have established a comprehensive housing practice in relation to domestic abuse and to supporting women on their journey to safety and rebuilding her life, whether in her current

or new home.

[Book the event](#)

London's Diversion Pilot for Women



Advance launched the London Diversion Pilot for Women one year ago, in partnership with the Metropolitan Police and MOPAC, aiming to offer alternatives to prosecution at point of arrest, such as conditional cautions, and divert women from custody. Women are referred to the specialist community services and women's centres of Advance and its three partners, Women in Prison, Hibiscus and Pecan, and offered the support they need when they need it, helping them to break the cycle of offending.

Since referrals began in November 2019, of the **96** women offered support, **83%** engaged with our services longer-term beyond the conditions and **92%** of those did not go on to offend since.

"I am glad to see the women's diversion scheme is making a difference and helping people on the right path. I hope more officers start to use this scheme; I definitely will as I can see the difference it makes" Police officer feedback

The Diversion keyworkers, who are often the first experience of support for many women, take a whole systems approach, wrapping services around the women to ensure their needs are met and any barriers to engaging are addressed. The women report positive outcomes as a result of the support they received, including **94%** improved health and wellbeing, **94%** reduced problematic substance use and **92%** improvement of accommodation needs.

"I'm so glad I was referred to Diversion (keyworker). I don't know what I would do without you (Advance)...knowing someone is there to help, who cares about me is making a difference" Diversion Woman feedback

[Find out more](#)

Women's voices - [@amjaunabashedly](#)

Advance visited AMJA 's art exhibition 'Black History Month' on October 2nd at Zeri Gallery, where she showcased three art works sharing her journey beyond surviving domestic abuse. She told us:



" because of the work you (Advance) do, you help survivors move from surviving to thriving - I am living proof."

AMJA spoke about the support she received from Advance and other support services during her journey to rebuild her life in a video (below).

[AMJA talks about #Support](#)



AMJA's creative journey started by joining Advance and Visual and Performance Artist, Rachel Gadsden, who led an art workshop and exhibition of "See Her: Survival and Hope through Creativity" in November 2018. AMJA's piece, Perception, (shown above) was showcased during the exhibition at Tank Gallery, in central London.

[SEE HER workshop and event](#)

Working or Volunteering with Advance

Advance, is an award-winning innovative charity working to enable women and girls to lead safe, violence-free and equal lives, so that they are able to flourish and actively engage with society.



Our incredible front line workers provide emotional and practical support tailored to women's needs, and as an organisation we evoke change by working within the system and engaging with professionals within statutory agencies.

Do you want to be part of our life-saving and life-changing work?

[Find a job opportunity](#)



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Domestic Abuse

Get help if you are afraid of being hurt or concerned about someone you know:

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angelou@advancecharity.org.uk

Criminal Justice:

Get help if you are involved in the criminal justice system:

[020 8563 2225](tel:02085632225)

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