

## News update: March 2021

**Register: Webinar 11 March, 10am - 12pm**



### Whole VAWG Services Approach

**Advance** are pleased to be hosting the '**Whole VAWG Services Approach**' webinar about the **Angelou Partnership's** innovative 'best-practice' model which aims to improve access to services and outcomes for survivors of violence and abuse.

We will explore the principles, share learnings and propose best-practice models in developing and commissioning a multi-agency VAWG response to address the intersectional needs of survivors of abuse and the long-lasting and far-reaching impact on their lives, whilst holding perpetrators accountable.

The webinar will be chaired by **Niki Scordi, CEO Advance**, and we will be joined by keynote speaker **Nicole Jacobs, Domestic Abuse Commissioner**. We will also hear from **Melissa Altman, Advance, Gudrun Burnet, Standing Together, Shabana Kausar RBKC, LBHF, WCC** and **Jess Asato, Safelives** along with other Angelou Partnership organisations.



[Register here](#)

# International Women's Day: Advance Celebrates

**#ChoosetoChallenge #VAWG**

For centuries, there has been a global pandemic going on. Worldwide, one third of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner.

From April to June last year, during the Covid-19 lockdown, more than a quarter of a million domestic abuse offences were recorded in England and Wales – and those were just the ones that were recorded.



The situation is bleak, but there is hope. Today, International Women's Day (8th March), and throughout March, International Women's Month, Advance is celebrating women who have helped change the system that keeps so many living in fear.

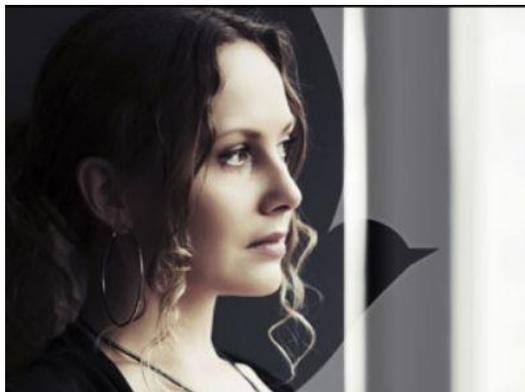
**Read on for our list of inspiring women** who choose to challenge a world where women and girls are not safe, and check out our Twitter, Instagram and Facebook feeds for names throughout the month.

To find out how Advance works with partner organisations to keep women and girls safe in London, check out our free webinar on 11<sup>th</sup> March, register above.

[Find out more](#)

## Covid 19 one year on: the impact on women's mental health

It is now a year since March 2020, when the world went into crisis mode and every one of us had to adjust, suddenly, to COVID-19 and the restrictions in place to tackle it. At Advance, however, we know all too well about the other pandemic affecting women and their children, which did not result in lockdown restrictions, but was exacerbated by them.



Some have called domestic abuse the invisible pandemic, but it is by no means invisible: far too many women and children see it every day.

Since the start of the pandemic, Advance has seen a **40% increase** in calls and referrals to our domestic abuse helpline and services. While crime in London fell overall, police recorded **206,492 domestic abuse-related crimes** alone between March and June 2020, a 9% increase in London compared with the same period in 2019 (ONS, 2020). The Centre for Women's Justice noted the number of **domestic abuse-related deaths trebled in 2020** in the UK, compared with 2019 and Counting Dead Women have documented at least 25 UK women killed by men (or where a man is the principal suspect) .....

[Read more here](#)

## Voices from the frontline: Mental Health Worker

Marie (not her name, for safety reasons) is Advance's Mental Health IDVA in our Angelou service, since October 2019.



Marie says that her favourite part of the job is being able to work on **developing stronger relationships between mental health and domestic abuse services**, to help battle the double stigma survivors face.

"I'm sort of a unicorn in the UK, as specialised Mental Health IDVA posts are very rare," she says. "The relationship between mental health and domestic abuse isn't recognised as widely as it should be. Most organisations have core IDVAs as opposed to specialist, so the fact Advance has this specific role is a massive step in the right direction.".....

[Read more about Marie's role](#)

[Donate today to help fund this vital work](#)

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## 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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**General enquiries:**

[020 3953 3111](tel:02039533111)

[marketing@advancecharity.org.uk](mailto:marketing@advancecharity.org.uk)

**Domestic Abuse**

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

[020 8741 7008](tel:02087417008)

[angelou@advancecharity.org.uk](mailto:angelou@advancecharity.org.uk)

**Criminal Justice:**

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

[020 8563 2225](tel:02085632225)

[admin\\_minerva@advancecharity.org.uk](mailto:admin_minerva@advancecharity.org.uk)

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