

Bromley Women's Aid



1975-2015

Bromley Women's Aid is 40

40 years is a major achievement for a small, local organisation to have thrived, whilst remaining responsible for ensuring its own funding.

Throughout this time we have been providing a crisis support and advice service for women and their children experiencing domestic abuse in Bromley and across south east London to a very high standard, and we have continued to develop and grow that holistic, excellent quality of service as experienced by our clients and as reflected back to us by the partners that we work with.

Our history was framed within the context of campaigning for women's rights, and a growing national awareness in the 70's of abuse behind the curtains in homes throughout Britain, statistics were shocking. Women's lives were often at risk from their violent partners. The law, police and society provided limited and often no protection in these circumstances. Beckenham and Penge women's group wanted to do something that would make a real difference to women's lives.

Our story is told in this our anniversary brochure. How has such a small organisation remained sustainable? Fuelled and driven from a passion and commitment to our core aim 'working to end domestic abuse', our staff have always had a connection to this experience, either personally or through relatives, they have represented the local community, and strived to work as a close knit team in this endeavour. We are in the fortunate position of being able to provide an independent service that puts the client first, understanding need, listening to and acquiring trust. We are person centred and non judgemental in our approach. We seek to protect against, to provide support, and to prevent re occurrence.

Our ability to use change as an opportunity, has enabled us to adapt and move successfully through the continuous and radical challenge of funding , this combined with the high bar of expectations that we set ourselves in terms of our

support standards, and the lack of statutory services has led us to become the experts in our field. The crises that we deal with often on a daily basis entail working with a wide variety of partners across the statutory and voluntary fields, and our partnership working has justifiably earned us an excellent local reputation over many years.

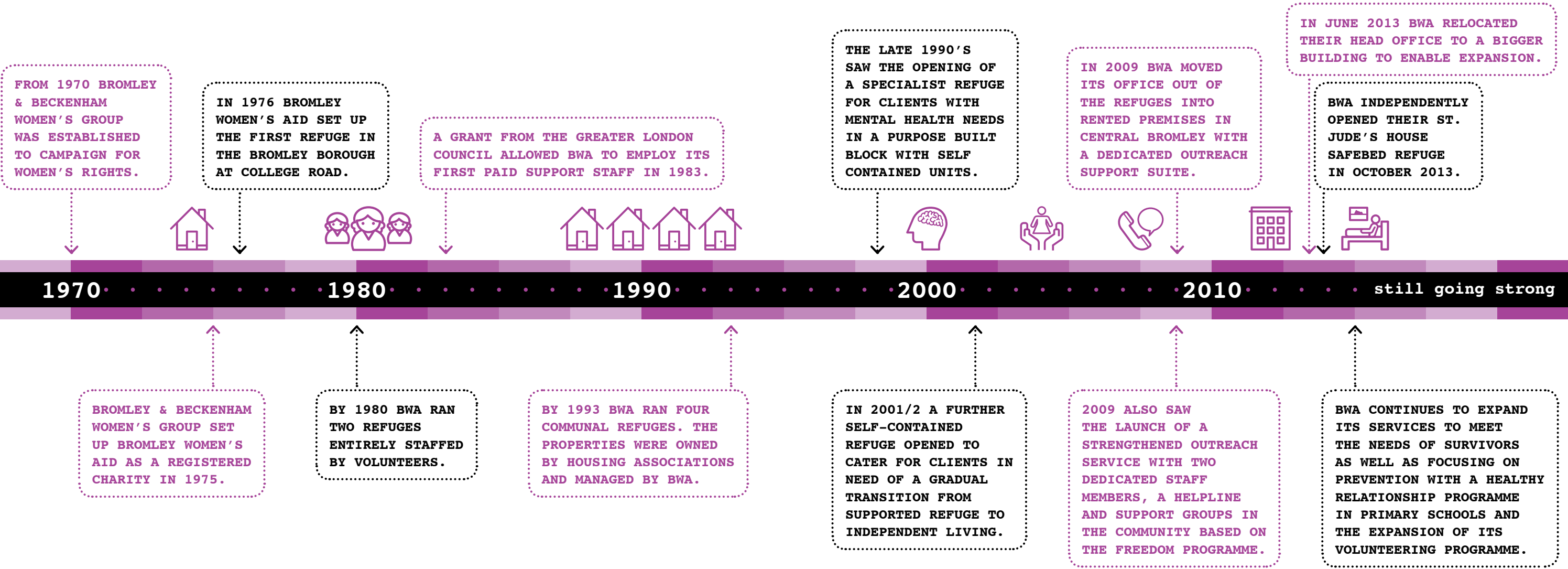
How is it we must all ask ourselves that healthy and respectful relationships are still not valued as the foundation and basis for a better quality of life style for all, that translates out from the home to the wider family, and friends, into the local community, into the workplace, into the nation, and across the world.

BWA works to end domestic abuse. Please support us in our work for our next 40 years.

Thank you,
Jane Ward



Bromley Women's Aid 1975 – 2015





Battered wives find sanctuary

BATTERED WIVES who decide to make a new life for themselves have at last got a local refuge to run to.

After over a year of searching, Bromley Women's Aid has found a suitable house in the area which will provide safety and a temporary home for women and children too scared to return to their husbands.

The four-bedroomed house should be ready for occupation next week – even though many of the rooms are still unfurnished. Furniture, kitchen equipment, carpets and most other household goods are urgently needed by the Women's Aid helpers to get the three-storey refuge fitted out.

□

Helpers are also needed to take part in the visiting rota to the refuge.

Because Women's Aid cannot afford a resident helper, a list of volunteers is kept to help residents and their families with problems.

The group is entirely self-supporting, and fund-raising is the only way they have of keeping going. They are shortly due to organize a jumble sale and storage space is available for saleable goods.

Anyone interested in offering help or goods can contact Women's Aid on 658 3636.

DESPITE SETBACKS BROMLEY
WOMEN'S AID MANAGED TO OPEN
ITS FIRST REFUGE IN 1976



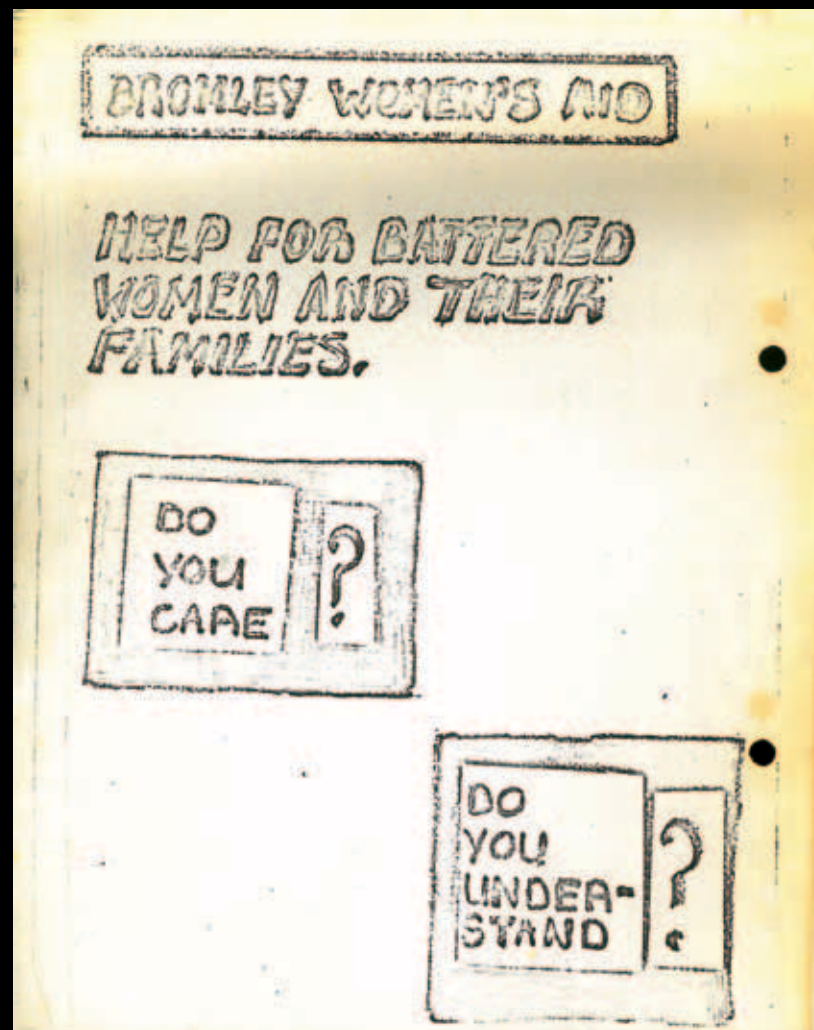
BROMLEY WOMEN'S AID
WAS ESTABLISHED
AND RUN 100% BY
VOLUNTEERS BETWEEN
1975 AND 1983

BROMLEY WOMEN'S AID TAKING PART IN A LOCAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS





FUNDRAISING
AT LIBERALS
FAIR BROMLEY
COMMON — 1983



BROMLEY WOMEN'S AID RAISING AWARENESS

Bromley Women's Aid have been very concerned at the lack of sympathy and support shown in local attitudes towards the inhabitants of our refuge, and hope that you will read this leaflet, which explains what we do and what we are about. A petition has been received by the Council from the surrounding neighbourhood trying to close us down. This has resulted in the turning down of a grant application, which means our hard working voluntary group, must struggle through yet another year with grossly inadequate funds. It has also meant lack of Council support. Throughout this time no one has consulted either the women living in the refuge, or the women's aid support group. People have relied on the distorted and exaggerated indictment of certain people to form an opinion. Please come to us if you have any complaints or worries about the refuge, and we will be more than willing to do all we can to sort them out, if they are reasonable.

778 0637
658 3636

Bromley Women's Aid are a voluntary group, who provide a refuge for women trying to get away from a violent situation. Our refuge is rented to us by the Council, who stipulate the number of people allowed to live in the house. We can accommodate three families at any one time. The refuge is visited several times a week by the Women's Aid worker who is on hand to help and support the women in any way necessary. The refuge is also visited in the evenings and at weekends. We need more help-particularly with the children and with decorating and maintaining the house. Please get in touch if you wish to help, or if you can provide blankets, sheets, toys, crockery, clothes etc.

Thankyou for reading this leaflet,

Bromley Women's Aid.



BROMLEY WOMEN'S AID

Bromley Women's Aid was formed in October 1976 by a group of local women concerned about the problem of mental and physical violence against women in their homes.

"Although given two properties by Bromley Council, we were given nothing in the way of a substantial grant. This has meant that all the demanding and stressful work necessary in Women's Aid needed to be done voluntarily. It also meant we had a continuous and intensive fund raising procedure to cope with in order to function adequately.

A substantial grant from the GLC has meant many improvements to our work on the last two years. It has also given our group a different status, as we actually feel that what we do is valued, worthwhile and appreciated by the GLC.

We now employ people to work in the refuge. The work entails complex liaison between the women and social services, DHSS, solicitors, housing departments and education welfare. We often have to deal with the police, doctors, Citizen's Advice Bureaux, other refuges, and referral agencies from other boroughs. This is apart from helping the women directly, moving and collecting furniture,

taking the children out, maintaining the refuges, and maintaining an after-care service. We also speak to many other local groups to create an awareness of the problems of battering locally, in order to prevent the problem as well as simply attempting to cure it.

Money from the GLC has meant we have been able to run a playgroup which takes a lot of the stress out of living in a refuge. It also means we can employ playgroup leaders. One is already qualified and we have been able to provide a training opportunity for the other. So we are now providing employment for local women in jobs that are fulfilling and beneficial to the community. Our new refuge has good furniture, fittings and carpets financed also from our GLC grant.

Better financing has meant an improved and efficient service for hundreds of battered women and their children from our borough."

Jane Ward
Bromley Women's Aid

CAMPAGNING TO
KEEP THE GLC
(GREATER LONDON
COUNCIL) WITH
KEN LIVINGSTONE



BROMLEY WOMEN'S AID SUPPORTING THE
WOMEN'S AID SOS CAMPAIGN — 2014



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

We would like to thank every individual, club, church, company, charity, trust and foundation that has supported our work over the last 40 years.

Since the opening of our first refuge, Bromley Women's Aid has become an important asset for our community, having supported thousands of survivors of domestic abuse.

Celebrating 40 years of work in Bromley is an amazing accomplishment of which we are extremely proud. We are well aware that the work we do could not happen without the help of people like you.

...40 TIMES THANK YOU!

In looking ahead to the future, we know that much work is still to be done in an increasingly challenging environment. We will need your support until the day no woman or child will be suffering from domestic abuse in Bromley.

"I am back. Life is filled with joy and hope again and I feel passionate about life. I would not have reached this stage without the endless support of such a great organisation."

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London
SE20 9BW

020 8313 9303
info@bromleywa.co.uk

Company No: 3320296
Charity No: 1068007



www.bromleywa.org.uk

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- **Individuals:** you can volunteer with BWA, celebrate your birthday with us, run, walk, swim or even climb Kilimanjaro! If you like your comfort instead, you can click on the donate button at www.bromleywa.org.uk
- **Companies:** you can organise events with your employees, set up a payroll giving scheme, or donate gifts in kind. Email us at info@bromleywa.co.uk
- **Trusts or Foundations:** we need help to run our refuges, train staff, run educational programmes in schools, and to fund outreach work in the community. Email info@bromleywa.co.uk for more information.
- **Legacies:** you can leave a gift to BWA in your will. Call us on 020 8313 9303 to find out more
- **Groups/Churches/Clubs:** you can organise events, like a dance night or a party, or church collections to help BWA. Many have already helped us and group support is always invaluable

Call 020 8313 9303 for further information, advice and support

Also find us on

