

The City Bridge Trust

Bridging Divides: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Organisation Details

Name of your organisation: Latin American Women's Aid	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Hackney	
Contact person: Ms. Angie Herrera	Position: Fundraising Officer
Website: http://lawadv.org.uk/	Social Media Accounts: Twitter: @LawaLondon Facebook: Latin American Women's Aid
What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold? AQS	

Legal Status

Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity			
Charity Number: 299975	Company Number: 2261724	CIC Number:	Bencom Number:
When was your organisation established? 30/11/1986			
Aims of your organisation: LAWA is a dedicated BME-led specialist women's organisation, that has 30 years expert experience in supporting Latin American and other Spanish and Portuguese speaking (LASP) BME women and children who are experiencing gender violence (GV) to break free from abuse and improve their lives. It is our main goal to enable our beneficiaries? social, economic and personal empowerment, promoting women's independence and autonomy, as well as non-violent environment for women and their children to thrive. We encourage our clients to achieve positive transitions and to start a new life and facilitate their integration into the wider UK society through tailored advice services, advocacy, culturally sensitive counselling and emergency accommodation. Since 1987 LAWA has been running the only women's refuge for Latin American women and children in the UK and Europe and an advice centre with various comprehensive services offering effective support in addressing harmful practices such as domestic violence (DV), sexual abuse and trafficking.			

Main activities of your organisation:

Our Services include:

- Emergency accommodation provision for Latin American and other BME women and their children.
- Intensive emotional and practical support, key working sessions and counselling, holistically addressing GV and intersecting needs of BME women
- Tailored specialised counselling services for children at the Refuge.
- Weekly drop-in sessions for general advice
- Free English Classes and crèche service
- Legal and Employment Advice
- Change Maker programme; a peer support empowerment programme for Latin American women and girls
- Nationally unique family support service to address the specific Impact of violence on children and family relationships
- Community outreach services and activities to decrease isolation.

Your Staff & Volunteers

Full-time:	Part-time:	Trustee/Board members:	Active volunteers:
2	9	7	10
Do you have a Safeguarding policy? Yes			
Are the following people in your organisation subject to DBS checks?			
Paid Staff Yes	Volunteers Yes	Trustees / Management Committee Members Yes	

Property occupied by your organisation

Is the main property owned, leased or rented by your organisation?	If leased/rented, how long is the outstanding agreement?
Leased	Three years for each Refuge

Environmental Impact**What action have you taken in the past year to progress environmentally sustainability principles and practice?**

Our main office is located at The Print House (Hackney), which is a building powered by 70% solar energy from its own solar panels on the roof. The solar photo voltaic (PV) panels are the biggest solar installation of its kind in London and are made up of 184 square meters of PV roof tiles. These generate 21,000 kilowatt hours of electricity/year whilst saving over 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide. This makes The Print House one of the most productive PV roofs (per sqm) in the UK. At LAWA, all our IT equipment is refurbished, in order to avoid the production of further electronic waste. At the building there is also a collection point of batteries and other small electronic waste, and a recycling policy. Furthermore, at the Refuges we have a compulsory recycling policy for residents, and we encourage all women to have a reduced and conscious water/electricity consumption.

Finance Details

Organisation Finances

	Year of most recent audited / examined accounts	Current financial year forecast	Next financial year budget
End of financial year date	31/03/2018	31/03/2019	
Grants & donations:	£190,696	£285,906	£0
Earned income:	£0	£0	£0
Other income:	£95,274	£100,000	£0
Total income:	285,970	£385,906	£0
Charitable activity costs:	£326,923	£489,306	£0
Cost of raising funds:	£242	£450	£0
Other costs:	£0	£0	£0
Total expenditure:	£327,165	£489,756	£0
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end:	£129,095	£0	£0
What is your organisation's reserves policy? In the view of this risk the trustees are aiming to build up the reserves, through the raising of unrestricted funds, to a level that would at least provide some security to cover periods when there is a shortfall in the receipt of charitable grants.			
For your most recent financial year, what % f of your income was from statutory sources? 31-40%			

Organisational changes

Describe any significant organisational changed to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts.

None

Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying?

Positive Transitions

Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve?

Positive Transitions\ Vulnerable and disadvantaged Londoners are more resilient and empowered to make positive choices

Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence.

From fear to freedom: expand the support for Latin American, BME and LBTQI women & their children to overcome traumatic gender/domestic violence, forced prostitution & human trafficking experiences, and thrive.

When will the funding be required? **01/10/2018**

Is this request to continue work that is currently funded or has been funded in the last year by:

City Bridge Trust?

No

Another funder? (If so which)

-

How much funding are you requesting?

Year 1:

£83,780

Year 2:

£82,280

Year 3:

£82,280

Year 4:

£82,280

Year 5:

£82,280

Total Requested: £412,900

You and your grant request

What, specifically, are you applying for (your project)?

This grant will provide funding towards the service provision at the new Refuge, and to expand the scope of the services provided at our Advice Center. More specifically, we are seeking resources for a Refuge worker/50% who will manage the new house, support women with the practical and emotional needs they have when arrive. As we will be doubling our bed spaces, this grant will contribute to increase our capacity to reach the most vulnerable groups of BME women who at this time are falling through services gaps across the sector. At the Advice Center this funding will enable us to expand our tailored-services provision to the LBTQI Latin American women, through the inclusion of a LBTQI adviser and outreach worker/40%. This specialized services aim not only to support the LBTQI Latin American women, often discriminated and victims of hate crime, but also to carry out outreach and prevention activities.

What are the changes you hope to achieve?

This initiative will empower women and children of Latin American background and other Spanish/Portuguese speaking BME and LBTQI women who have suffered gender violence to take control over their lives by increased provision of holistic, person-centered services. Beyond working on domestic violence, helping LASP BME women to build better lives for themselves, this initiative becomes an opportunity to address and prevent gender based violence (GBV) in our communities in the long term, and supporting beneficiaries' social, economic and personal empowerment.

In the case of LBTQI Latin American and other BME women, this project will contribute to reduce the inequalities they face when seeking for support, due to the additional prejudices they experience as a result of their migrant background combine with their sexual orientation. By offering an inclusive and non judgmental service, they will increase their resilience and empowerment to make positive choices in the coming future.

How do you know there's a need for this work?

Addressing the needs of Latin American and other BME/LBTQI women fleeing GV and the intersecting disadvantages that shape their abuse experience is an issue mostly misunderstood by generic services. The importance of specialist services has been widely evidenced for example in Imkaan's reports, where women have stated they have a clear preference for BME-VAWG services that make them feel safer (Imkaan,2013). While funding for specialist services is decreasing, violence is not: every week, two women are killed in the UK, and in the past 10-years 50% of specialist BME-refugees have disappeared (Imkaan,2017), greatly impacting BME-survivors, who face additional barriers accessing support. BME-women are twice-as-likely as non BME-women to be living in poverty thereby at greater risk of social exclusion and homelessness upon trying to exit abuse (DAHA,2017). The fact that 4/5 BME-women are turned down upon trying to access refuge (Imkaan,2015) proves they are in urgent need of specialist services.

How will the work be delivered - specifically, what will you do?

As in our current Refuge, we will respond with a holistic-approach:

- Emergency accommodation and tailored/holistic support: Personal safety planning, risk/needs assessment, emergency response to high risk DV/abuse cases, 15 1:1 key-working sessions (practical/emotional support).
- Floating support for community resettlement after leaving the refuge, and for women at risk of GV unable/unwilling to access a refuge: undertaking comprehensive needs, risk assessment and safety planning, facilitating resettlement support into new accommodation/community to ensure a smooth transition.
- Children and Young People (CYP) Support: providing emotional/practical support; improving relationships with mothers and wider community and addressing mental/physical health-needs.

At the Advice Center we will expand the service provision by including specialized services for LBTQI Latin American and other BME women who are seeking support to overcome DV. Among other areas, we offer advice on: prevention workshops, personal safety planning, DV risk assessment, housing benefits, and police and social service contact.

Why are you the right organisation to do this work?

For the past 31 years, LAWA has been providing the only refuge space for Latin American and other Spanish and Portuguese speaker BME women in Europe and the UK. Rather than only offering crisis intervention and sign posting support, we ensure that we provide meaningful, personalised, empowering support throughout a survivor's journey. We have 31 years of expertise in managing and delivering high impact projects tailored to BME communities: 98% of LAWA's residents reported that they improved their overall well-being, 83% did not return to abusive partners, saving lives and costs related to re-victimization, 73% were employed upon exiting our refuge increasing significantly their independence, 85% of our advice users over the past year stated that they wouldn't have been able to exit their violent relationships had it not been for LAWA's support, 65% reported that they had not felt confident to approach mainstream services prior to accessing LAWA support.

How does your work complement and not duplicate other services within your area?

LAWA's services are unique in the UK as there is no other organisation with a specialized tailored approach exclusive for Latin American women seeking for emergency accommodation nor Latin American LBTQI women GV advice service program. On one side, our new refuge is located in the borough of Barnet where there is no other BME emergency accommodation provision. We do work in deep coordination with the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Barnet council office, to ensure all women experiencing gender violence receive the support that better respond to their specific needs. With regards to the LBTQI services, we have been able to establish that, although there is a range of service provision for this community across London, there is a lack of service specialized on gender violence that responds to their specific needs with regards to the prevention, hate crime and domestic violence.

Is the focus of your project meeting an already identifiable need (acute or otherwise) or are there elements which are preventative and/or incorporate early action?

The focus of this initiative responds to an already identified need, that is, as the matter of fact, constantly growing. Our work is designed to support Latin American and other BME women and their children withstanding various forms of GV, including DV, sexual exploitation/harassment, trafficking, hate crime, child abuse and harmful practices. Every week, two women in the UK are killed by their partners/ex-partner (Women's Aid, 2017), and one in four lesbians and bisexual women have experienced domestic abuse in a relationship (Stonewall, 2012). Research shows that the vulnerability of women and CYP from BME backgrounds, such as Latin Americans is exacerbated as they are generally trapped in violent relationships for about 40% longer than their British equivalents, typically due to a lack of knowledge of their rights, limited language skills and other barriers that reinforce fear of seeking support (Imkaan, 2010).

Who might you need to work closely with in delivering this project - whether before, during or afterwards?

With regards to the emergency accommodation provision, before the opening of the new house, it was necessary to work together with the housing association in order to obtain a second property to manage. Thanks to the good and close relationship we have had for the past 30 years with the housing association managing the first Refuge, we have now signed a tenancy agreement.

During the delivering of our services, we are always aiming to work in permanent coordination with the statutory services offices, such as police, social services and borough's councils. In this sense we work in partnership with six London boroughs: Hackney, Islington, Barnet, Southwark, Lambeth, and Hammersmith and Fulham. Being close to the community is also a key approach for us, specially for LGBTQI women who must face the additional fear of being discriminated because of their sexual orientation or endure the lack of specialized services for them.

Our aim as a funder is to help people move positively between any of the four stages of Surviving, Coping, Adapting and Thriving. For your project at which of these stages will most people begin their journey?

On one side, this Initiative will support women who have survived gender violence but who's lives are still at risk, by responding to their most urgent need: emergency accommodation (Women's Aid, 2018). Based on this, all women that stay at the Refuge start at the surviving stage, as they are seeking to save their lives of the risk of being killed by the perpetrators. We do, however, support women through out all stages during their time at the Refuge. Although all women have their own personal journey, our tailored holistic approach at the Refuge aims to support and encourage them to make the positive transition from the surviving stage to the adapting and thriving one.

On the other hand, BME LGBTQI women who approach our advice center, but who do not require emergency accommodation, will initiate their journey at the coping stage.

How will this proposal meet the Programme Outcome(s) under which you are applying?

- Vulnerable and disadvantage Londoners are more resilient and empowered to make positive choices: LBTQI women from ethnic minorities face additional barriers when addressing DV and accessing services due to fear of discrimination, cultural homophobia, Insufficient specialist support provision for LBTQI BME women. By putting in place a tailored advice service provision that takes into account all the intersections they face as migrant LBTQI women, we encourage them to regain the control of their lives to make better choices.
- Specialist support services are better able to meet the needs of vulnerable and disadvantage Londoners: 90.5% of refuge service users expressed their most urgent need is housing, whereas refuge providers were forced to reject 1/5 of all referrals due to lack of space (11.867 women) in 2016/2017(Women's Aid, 2017). By increasing our emergency accommodation capacity from 12 to 36 rooms, we are seeking to respond to the most critical need.

How will you ensure that your project will hear and represent the views and needs of disadvantaged people and/or diverse communities?

We have learnt that on-going beneficiary consultation and Involvement forming trustful non-judgmental relationships must always be part of our project delivery. Our approach incorporates different formal and informal tools that aim to collect the practical and emotional needs that women have when they are at the Refuge or when they use other services. This tools are compound by formal surveys, one to one meetings, and feedback forms. Hence our services are informed by the needs of our beneficiaries, making them more effective.

At LAWA, we have 30 years of experience, that have been also years of evaluation and learning, allowing us to improve our model and to respond in a more effective manner to the Latin American women we work with. We are constantly working to ensure that the beneficiaries are located at the center of our project delivery, and that their voices are properly heard.

How does your project engage and empower individuals and/or communities to come together on this issue? Will you be working with people who are particularly excluded?

Our ultimate goal is the empowerment of the women we work with. We encourage them to gain the strength to take back the control over their lives and to thrive, together with their families. Rather than only offering crisis intervention and sign posting support, we ensure that we provide meaningful, personalized, empowering support throughout a survivors journey, e.g. by accompanying beneficiaries to key meetings and appointments (such as housing appointments, court cases, etc.) and advocating on their behalf, while also up skilling them (e.g. through language courses and making them aware of their rights and entitlements) and building their confidence so that they can gradually tackle these independently. Latin american and other BME/LBTQI women do face more challenges -migration status, lack of English language, poverty- in order to get the support they need when fleeing violence, and therefore they constantly find themselves in an excluded situation and facing isolation.

Will there be any elements of this project that will help you or your beneficiaries to reduce your environmental footprint?

Throughout all the physical spaces (both refuges and main office/advice center) where we deliver our services, we will continue to implement our own recycling policies and following the ones stated by the building management company (previously explained). As we consolidate the service provision in the new Refuge, many more women will become familiarized with environmentally friendly practices, as they start to follow the rules defined in the house for this matter. As part of our floating support, we will encourage women to continue recycling practices in their own homes, once they leave the refuge and are resettled in their own places.

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver?

Provide 12 safe refuge emergency spaces at any given time for women with or without children (a total of 36 women per year), advice and advocacy to vulnerable women and their children in order to overcome the risk of continuing being exposed to the violence or killed by the perpetrator.

Provide on-going holistic, tailored advice and support in the fields of education, employment, housing, and mental health to at least 180 women and their children (approximately 360) at the Refuge (throughout the course of the 5 years), in order to help them rebuild their lives after experiencing domestic violence.

Provide specialized and tailored advice services in the fields of legal aid, education, employment, housing, mental health, prevention services and outreach work to at least 600 LBTQI women at our Advice Centre, in order to support them rebuild their lives after experiencing domestic violence.

What 3 main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve?

Women and children experiencing domestic violence are able to lead off their transition journey from violence to freedom, and to increase their overall wellbeing, through access to safe refuge, emergency accommodation and customized crisis interventions -practical and emotional- provided by LAWA.

Women and children accessing the refuge improved their self-esteem, economic wellbeing, autonomy, long term mental health and strengthen their recovery process by receiving long-term culturally specific counselling in their first language, which ultimately leads to their healing and empowerment.

Latin American LBTQI women increased their quality of life and are able to overcome traumatic gender/domestic violence experiences through access to tailored holistic support and prevention.

Funding required for the project Revised

What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Refuge coordinator (100%)	31.186	31.186	31.186	31.186	31.186	155.930
<i>Pension and National Insurance</i>	4.314	4.314	4.314	4.314	4.314	21.570
LBTQ adviser and outreach worker (40%)	14.186	14.186	14.186	14.186	14.186	70.930
<i>Pension and National Insurance</i>	1.314	1.314	1.314	1.314	1.314	6.570
Director (30%)	10.828	10.828	10.828	10.828	10.828	54.140
<i>Pension and National Insurance</i>	722	722	722	722	722	3.610
Recruitment	3.700	-	-	-	-	3.700
Staff training	2.100	2.100	2.100	2.100	2.100	10.500
Staff clinical supervision	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	12.000
LBTQ - Outreach events/workshops	2.988	2.988	2.988	2.988	2.988	14.940
Travel and volunteer costs	4.224	4.224	4.224	4.224	4.224	21.120
Office rent, rates, heats and light	3.600	3.600	3.600	3.600	3.600	18.000
Printing, postage and stationary	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	7.500
Telephone & IT systems	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	12.500
Insurance	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	7.500
Translation and Interpretation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Communications - M&E	1.740	1.740	1.740	1.740	1.740	8.700
Professional and legal fees	3.680	3.680	3.680	3.680	3.680	18.400
TOTAL:	92.482	88.782	88.782	88.782	88.782	447.610

What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	24.450	24.450				48.900
TOTAL:	24.450	24.450	-	-	-	48.900

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Comic Relief (as part of a partnership)			17.750			17.750
Funder to be Identified			6.700	24.450	24.450	55.600
TOTAL:	-	-	24.450	24.450	24.450	73.350

How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Refuge coordinator (50%)	15.593	15.593	15.593	15.593	15.593	77.965
<i>Pension and National Insurance</i>	2.157	2.157	2.157	2.157	2.157	10.785
LBTQ adviser and outreach worker (40%)	14.186	14.186	14.186	14.186	14.186	70.930
<i>Pension and National Insurance</i>	1.314	1.314	1.314	1.314	1.314	6.570
Director (10%)	3.609	3.609	3.609	3.609	3.609	18.045
<i>Pension and National Insurance</i>	241	241	241	241	241	1.205
Recruitment	3.700	-	-	-	-	3.700
Staff training	2.100	2.100	2.100	2.100	2.100	10.500
Staff clinical supervision	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	12.000
LBTQ - Outreach events/workshops	2.988	2.988	2.988	2.988	2.988	14.940
Travel and volunteer costs	4.224	4.224	4.224	4.224	4.224	21.120

Office rent, rates, heats and light	3.600	3.600	3.600	3.600	3.600	18.000
Printing, postage and stationary	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	7.500
Telephone & IT systems	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500	17.500
Insurance	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	7.500
Translation and Interpretation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Communications – M&E	1.740	1.740	1.740	1.740	1.740	8.700
Professional and legal fees	3.680	3.680	3.680	3.680	3.680	18.400
TOTAL:	68.032	64.332	64.332	64.332	64.332	325.360

Who will benefit?

How many people will directly benefit from the grant per year?

228

In which Greater London borough(s) or areas of London will your beneficiaries live?

Southwark

Does this project specifically target any groups or communities?

Latin American and other Spanish and Portuguese speaker women (from Angola, Mozambique, etc.), other BME women and Latin American LBTI women

This project will specifically work with the following age groups:

0-15

This project will specifically work with the following gender groups:

Female

This project will specifically work with the following ethnic groups:

Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British (Including African; Caribbean; Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background)

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

Latin American women

This project will specifically work with Deaf and disabled people:

No

This project will specifically work with LGBTQI groups:

Yes

This project will specifically work with other groups or communities:

Latin American and other Spanish and Portuguese speaker women (from Angola, Mozambique, etc.), other BME women and Latin American LGBTI women

How will you target the groups/communities you have identified? What is your expertise in providing services for these groups?

LAWA has been carrying out outreach work in key spaces such as children's centres, hospitals, community hubs, in the boroughs where there is a prevalent Latin American community. We will increase these efforts within the LGBTI Latin American community

Are there any groups or communities you think your organisation will find hard to include through this project?

Yes - please specify

If yes, please specify which groups or communities? Where possible using the categories listed above.

Latin American women, other BME women and LGBTI Latin American women are often categorized as "hard to reach" groups due to the additional barriers they face that prevent them from accessing supporting services.

If yes, what steps will you take to make your services accessible to and meet the needs of the groups/communities you have identified?

100% of our work aims to reach these communities and is directed to respond to the needs they have when fleeing any form of gender violence. We will maintain and expand our outreach activities in order to increase the service availability awareness.

-Declaration

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information I have provided in this application form is correct. I fully understand that City Bridge Trust has zero tolerance towards fraud and will seek to prosecute and recover funds in every instance.

Please confirm: Yes Full Name: **Yenny Tovar**

Role within **Director**
Organisation: