

MEETING: 11/09/23

REF: 20297

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Anchor Programme**

<b>End Violence Against Women Coalition</b>	<b>Adv: Anneka Singh</b>
<b>Amount requested: £910,000</b>	<b>Base: Vauxhall</b>
<b>Amount recommended: £979,370</b>	<b>Benefit: London</b>

**Purpose of grant request: To support End Violence Against Women Coalition's core costs.**

**The Applicant**

Established in 2005, End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW) is a registered charity (number 1161132) that works to transform the systems that enable violence against women and girls (VAWG). It drives social change through campaigning, shaping policy and by challenging the wider cultural attitudes that tolerate and normalise abuse.

EVAW was set up as an independent second tier, unifying a diverse movement behind strategic campaigns and influencing for structural change, securing the first cross-government VAWG Strategy in 2010. The organisation is 100% women-led. It is a feminist coalition rooted in knowledge of overlapping structural inequalities. EVAW's membership is comprised of 143 specialist women's support services, researchers, activists and survivors. 60% of its membership is London-based.

**Background and detail of proposal**

Funding is requested towards EVAW's core costs. The submitted budget includes a 20% contribution to 9 core staff roles and EVAW's organisational overhead costs associated with its work to end violence against women and girls in all its forms.

EVAW identifies opportunities as they arise, innovating and crafting opportunities from shifts and changes, and nurturing connections to achieve its aims and objectives, which are:

- To influence the state response and social norms related to VAWG - because these influence one another - making the case for radically altered cross-government response to VAWG, prevention and 'holistic justice' for all survivors;
- To ensure the public and those who make and shape policy understand that VAWG is not inevitable, but a cause and consequence of women's inequality; with intersecting inequalities compounding experiences of VAWG;
- To be relevant and responsive to its members.

It works to disrupt the systems and structures that enable and normalise violence and build a fairer world through:

#### Setting and influencing the agenda:

- Lobbying and advocacy
- Strategic campaigns
- Policy expertise
- Strategic litigation

#### Movement building:

- Joining the dots across anti-racism, VAWG, human rights and all intersecting oppressions
- Coalition and consensus-building around shared values which recognise the impact of overlapping structural inequalities
- Influencing and mobilising members and supporters to practice solidarity and equitable collaboration

#### Inspiring action for social justice:

- Storytelling – engaging communications which educate and inform
- Media presence reaching and influencing diverse audiences
- Shaping narratives in public discourse
- Commissioning and publishing research

The proposal highlights that women's inequality and VAWG are not inevitable, yet there is an absence of resourced, ambitious policy to prevent it from occurring. This feeds and, in turn, perpetuates widely accepted social and cultural norms which minimise VAWG, blame victims, fail to hold perpetrators to account and focus on individual safety over collective rights/freedoms.

EVAW observes that the VAWG sectors lifesaving work has been undervalued and under resourced for decades. It foresees that the sector is due to be further impacted by the long-term impact of the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis on women's lives, increasing risks of abuse and curtailing access to justice and protection.

Sustained policy change and shifting thinking around VAWG requires systemic and cultural shifts. EVAW's experience in driving change, as well as tracking and moving public opinion, demonstrates that top-down policy change doesn't work in isolation, and that sustainable change requires a meaningful shift in the value statutory bodies and society place on the VAWG sector and how it operates.

Funding will enable significant work towards EVAW's mission to build a united movement, collectively disrupting oppressive structures and influencing the political, economic, social and cultural changes necessary to end and prevent VAWG.

EVAW acknowledges that its relationship with its members is critical to contribute to anti-racist and feminist movement-building. It is working to address the gaps in its membership, particularly towards stronger representation of specialists responding to disabled, Black, African, Caribbean descent, LGBT+, older and rural women's needs. Its Outreach Strategy aims to strengthen its intersectional understanding of

the impact of law and policy on women and girls' lives, ensuring its strategies are grounded in survivors' lived experiences.

### **London's VAWG sector**

In London, EVAW's expertise and input has been heavily sought to help shape the Mayor of London's VAWG strategy. It is the sole organisation present on strategic partnership boards for the Violence Reduction Unit and the London Criminal Justice Board. As part of its work on justice system accountability, EVAW has been consulted on the development of the London Metropolitan Police's VAWG Action Plan for London and provide ongoing scrutiny of plans to address VAWG, including on addressing police perpetrated abuse.

EVAW recognises London as a key site for piloting and testing innovative approaches to ending and preventing VAWG. In 2019, EVAW fed into the London Rape Review led by the London's Victim's Commissioner and were early stakeholders to a new approach to transform the policing response to rape initially developed within the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). This new approach was the blueprint for Operation Soteria that was launched in 2021 as a response to the government's End-to-End Rape Review. EVAW are ongoing key stakeholders to this review, both monitoring progress and holding the state to account on its pledges to increase the number of rape cases progressing to court, and on the implementation of a new national operating model for the investigation of rape and serious sexual assault across all police forces and Crown Prosecution Service areas.

Other recent achievements include:

- Leadership, scrutiny and influence in strategic statutory spaces, notably co-chairing the London Mayor's VAWG Board and its voluntary sector expert group, representing the VAWG sector in Baroness Casey's review into the London Metropolitan and advising the Angiolini Inquiry into the circumstances of Sarah Everard's murder;
- Securing resourcing for EVAW members: a Home Office 'led by and for' ring-fenced fund (£6 million); and £1 million MOPAC Cost-of-Living Fund for VAWG services in London;
- Successfully campaigning for national and London-specific public communications work addressing norms and behaviours among men which underpin VAWG;
- Engagement with London-based media outlets on approximately 100 occasions, reaching vast London audiences via broadcast interviews, podcasts, and press commentary.

## Financial Information

Year end as at 31 March	2022	2023	2024
	Signed Accounts	Management Accounts	Budget
	£	£	£
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	561,297	493,275	682,800
Expenditure	(455,705)	(595,024)	(599,616)
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>105,592</b>	<b>(101,749)</b>	<b>83,184</b>
<b>Reserves:</b>			
Total restricted	14,653	16,761	16,761
Total unrestricted	450,908	347,051	430,235
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>465,561</b>	<b>363,812</b>	<b>446,996</b>
Of which: free unrestricted	274,256	170,399	253,583
Reserves policy target	187,389	187,389	195,076
Free reserves over/(under) target	86,867	(16,990)	58,507

EVAW is supported by trusts and foundations. It is forecasting a deficit in 2022/23, which is covered by its carried forward surplus funds from 2021/22. Its reserves policy is to 'have sufficient free reserves to fund the organisation's running costs for three months and to cover shutdown costs'. It expects to meet its target in 2023/24 (the target figure in the above table is inclusive of salary changes, shutdown and liabilities costs identified by EVAW for 2023/24). EVAW spent down a proportion of its designated funds in 2022/23 (80% of its expenditure for the year was against its designated funds).

Anchor Programme funds are included in EVAW's 2023/24 budget as unconfirmed income. 55% of its expected income for 2023/24 is secured (£377,500).

### Funding History

None.

### The Recommendation

EVAW is an independent second tier, unifying a diverse movement behind strategic campaigns and influencing for structural change to end VAWG in all its forms. Its work fits closely with Anchor Programme criteria. A slightly increased funding level is recommended to account for year-on-year inflation.

**£979,370 (£124,000; £128,960; £134,120; £139,480; £145,060; £150,860; £156,890) over seven years towards EVAW's core costs.**