

Bawso

Providing specialist services for BME communities

24hr Helpline 0800 731 8147

www.bawso.org.uk

Who we are

Bawso support people from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds who are affected by domestic abuse and other forms of abuse, including Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage, Trafficking and Prostitution.

Established in 1995, Bawso is a Welsh Government Accredited Support Provider, delivering specialist services through 25 projects supporting over 1,800 people every year in Wales.

We provide support, advice and information from our offices in Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Swansea and Wrexham.

Our staff and volunteers are trained to the highest standard and many have received awards for the work that they do.

made free from pressure and fear.

Domestic Abuse Support Workers and Volunteers, ensure that we provide emotional and practical support to women in our Refuges.

We respect and celebrate diversity by working with staff and volunteers from diverse professional and cultural backgrounds.

Our Refuge accommodation provides facilities including a prayer room and Halal / vegetarian kitchens.

If you are need of support or know someone who is please contact us in confidence;

08007318147 (24 hour helpline)
info@bawso.org.uk



person being abused; they can also pick up on the aggressive vibes from the perpetrator of violence.

Bawso have specialist child care support workers who do a variety of work with children, both individually and in groups.

We work closely with schools, Social Services, Health Services and other children's organisations.

The main aim of our childcare project is to meet Cultural, Social, Practical, Educational and Religious needs of the children;

- To sustain the natural social and emotional development of children and young people.
- To enable children and young people to deal with the effects of domestic abuse.
- To empower women to empower their children to make their lives better.
- To increase each child/ young person's developmental well-being.

Refuge

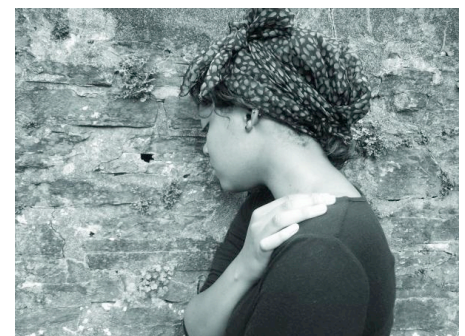
Bawso provide secure accommodation to Black and Ethnic Minority women and children at risk of or suffering domestic abuse in Wales.

Refuge offers a safe breathing space where decisions can be

Child Care

Children are hidden victims of domestic abuse and they can be affected in multiple ways.

They can suffer from witnessing abuse and pick up on the fear, anxiety and trauma of the



Safe House

Safe House accommodation provides tailored service for victims who either have large families or cannot live in communal settings. We have expertise in supporting families with complex needs and/or teenage boys.

A woman and her family can stay in a Safe House for up to six months during which time a Family Support Worker will provide the necessary emotional and practical support and advice.

Bawso holistic services, recognise diversity by offering emotional and practical support throughout the transitional period until the family move into social housing.

Floating Support

Bawso is the largest provider of Floating Support to BME families across Wales.

Our project works in partnership with local authorities and other relevant agencies to assist families to maintain their tenancies in social housing and private accommodation.

Services offered include:

- Advice on Housing and Tenancy issues
- Support in moving home and resettlement
- Welfare Benefit Advice
- Employment Issues
- Budgeting & Debt Management
- Life Skills and training advice

Outreach & Resettlement

Individuals or families leaving refuge accommodation may be particularly vulnerable.

Our Outreach Workers provides tapering support as the family begins to live independently.

This service is also available to families in the community.

We meet anyone who accesses our Outreach Support Service in a safe environment, and provide support and information to enable them to make informed choices to help them live independently.

Training Opportunities
Domestic Abuse
Welfare Rights
Counselling
Housing Advice
Forced Marriage
Language Support

Advice & Information Centres

Without information and advice, individuals are not able to make the right decisions about their own lives.

Bawso operates an open door policy to provide advice and information. Our Advice Centers are based in Cardiff, Merthyr, Newport, Swansea & Wrexham.

These are the first point of contact for people in vulnerable situations.

The services include information and advice on:

- Domestic abuse
- Welfare Rights
- Counselling

Onward referrals are made to:

- Refuge
- Floating Support
- Befriending scheme for women



DIOGEL Trafficking Project

Human trafficking is the second largest illegal trade in the world.

Victims of human trafficking are subjected to coercion, exploitation, deception, kidnap, false imprisonment and rape.

The Diogel Project was set up in South Wales by Bawso in 2009 to provide support for victims of trafficking.

In 2010 Welsh Government funded the expansion of the project to North Wales in response to increased demand for the service.

More recently the Diogel Project was expanded to provide 10 units of secure accommodation and 10 outreach units respectively under the new contract with the Salvation Army.

The project now provides 13 units of secure accommodation and 20 outreach units across Wales

Referral Criteria;

- Is over 18 years of age
- Has been trafficked in the U.K.
- Subsequently exploited

Bawso also has the capacity to provide outreach support to both male and female victims of trafficking through Wales.

Female Genital Mutilation Health and Safeguarding

The project was established in 2010 to support BME women and young girls who have undergone or who are at risk of undergoing Female Genital Mutilation.

We reach out to communities who are hard to reach or most inclined to practice FGM.

Our aim is to empower women in practicing communities to be proactive in raising awareness on the detrimental impact FGM has on lives of those who have been affected by it.

We also work with men and community leaders, policy makers and health professionals to support those who have undergone FGM and to change attitudes towards the practice.

Bawso works to raise awareness of FGM and have reissued our Educational booklet for health practitioners to help women and girls affected by or at risk of FGM.

Youth Development- Cardiff

National statistics reveal the continued disadvantage and discrimination that many young people from BME backgrounds experience in terms of:

- education
- employment
- poverty
- homelessness / housing
- physical and mental health
- involvement in the criminal justice system

Bawso provide practical and emotional support to young males who have problems at home, in school, accessing

education, and training or employment opportunities.

Our project supports and empowers young BME males in training and development opportunities.

We work in partnership with schools, colleges, training providers, employers and other agencies.



North Wales Young Peoples Development Project

We deliver practical and emotional support to BME girls and young women between the ages of 11 and 21 years who have experienced and fled Domestic Abuse including Forced Marriage.

Bawso helps them to recover from the trauma and dislocation of abuse, regain self confidence and begin the journey of realising their potential and aspirations.

Men's Project

People from BME communities are more likely to be poor, rates of employment are lower and unemployment is higher.

Our project helps men from BME communities to improve living standards, welfare, social justice and reduce poverty.

We work with other agencies to provide support and information on;

- Employment

- Training & volunteering opportunities
- Immigration, homelessness and housing problems
- Trafficking, forced marriage and domestic abuse.

Development, Research & Information

Information gathered by our Research and Information project forms a solid evidence base to develop and deliver services to men women and children fleeing domestic violence and other forms of abuse.

The project also informs policy development in the sector through active participation.

Research is conducted on various aspects our work to keep abreast of emerging trends, policy development, and the impact they may have on the services we provide.

Bawso research reports:

Protecting Black and Minority Ethnic Children: An Investigation of Child Protection Interventions, (2012).

Locating BME Female BME Off Street Sex Workers in Cardiff (March 2011)

The Hidden Scourge: Experiences of Sexual Violence among Black and Minority Ethnic Women in Wales (March 2011)

Supporting Women with No Recourse to Public Funds (July 2011)

Female Genital Mutilation: Examining the practice in Wales (February 2009)

Forced Marriage in Wales (2008)

Bawso work with many partner organisations. Due to space restrictions we are unable to list them here. Please visit www.bawso.org.uk for a full list of all our project partners and funders.

Older People Project- Cardiff

Older people from BME communities are some of the most marginalized in society.

The Bawso Older People Project promotes independence and well being among people aged 50+ from BME communities in Cardiff.



Volunteer Project

Volunteering plays an integral part in Bawso's provision and delivery of a holistic service to BME people suffering from domestic violence and other forms of abuse.

Bawso has worked with volunteers since inception. Volunteers are recruited across Wales and last year we worked with 165 volunteers.

Volunteers bring many benefits to the organisation including diversity, innovation and enthusiasm, and are a valuable source of flexible and informal support, which provides added value to Bawso's more formal support services.

Volunteer for Bawso! Full training and support is provided.

Women With No Recourse To Funds

Women fleeing domestic abuse who are subject to immigration control may not be entitled to

access certain public services in the UK.

Bawso supports women with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). The majority of women we support are victims of multiple forms of violence including domestic abuse, rape, sexual abuse, FGM and honour based violence.

These women not only have the worry of their financial and immigration issues but the trauma of having undergone other forms of abuse.

Bawso is an active member of the National Campaign group to abolish NRPF as well as the NRPF Home Office Advisory Group. We actively participate in the UK wide campaign to abolish the NRPF rule.

We rely solely on staff and volunteers to raise funds for the NRPF project. Please contact us if you would like further information about the NRPF project or wish to make a donation.



Language Support Project

Many BME people speak little or no English.

We provide language support through our paid interpreters to those accessing our services.

Service users from ethnic minorities fleeing domestic abuse, receive support to help them understand issues relevant to their lives and support in

seeking help from other agencies.

They also gain a better understanding of their rights, to enable them to improve the quality of their lives.

Throughout this project, Bawso recruits interpreters with familiar cultural backgrounds who speak, understand, read and write English and one or more ethnic languages to provide language support. They undergo rigorous vetting and training to ensure that we provide an excellent service.

BAWSO Interpretation and Training Services (BITS)

In addition to our language support project, we also offer interpretation and training services for a fee.

BITS raises funds for women with no recourse to public funds.

Currently Bawso has 161 interpreters on its database. Between them our interpreters speak a total of 56 languages and dialects. Most of BAWSO staff members are also multilingual and between them speak 33 different languages.

BITS deliver training on the following subject areas;

- Domestic Abuse from a BME Perspective
- Cultural Diversity
- Forced Marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Supporting people with No Recourse to Public Funds
- Understanding Human Trafficking

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