

IZZY'S PROMISE [SCOTTISH CHARITY NO SCO33706]

JULY AND AUGUST 2010 UPDATE

Over the last two months (July and August) Izzy's Promise workers and volunteers have been very busy offering support services to ritual/organised abuse survivors and networking with other abuse support organisations all over the world. We offered face-to-face support, phone support, email support and text support. We also received referrals from other abuse support agencies in the UK. We were approached by 5 abuse support agencies to deliver awareness training on how to support ritual abuse survivors. Our trainers will be delivering a training to support workers and volunteers working with survivors of ritual/organised abuse in Cornwall towards the end of September. There has been a high demand for our training services but due to a small number of trainers we are simply unable to meet the demand.

During the month of July and August more ritual abuse survivors contacted Izzy's promise for support by email, phone and text accounting for a total of 180 hours of workers and volunteers time. In the same period, 9 survivors dropped into our offices 14 times for face-to-face support, 13 survivors phoned Izzy's Promise 74 times for support, 14 survivors were supported via 306 emails, 16 ritual abuse survivors were supported via 400 texts and 33 were supported via the RANS Message board. Some survivors were faced with very serious challenges such as triggers, flashbacks, suppressed memories, DID and PTSD and other social issues.

Our website (www.izzyspromise.org.uk) has been revamped and was visited by 892 people from all over the world with the UK accounting for 80% of the people using our website, USA accounted for 5%, Australia 5%, Canada 5%, India 3% and 2% the rest of the world. We also had 33 people accessing the RANS message board to offer mutual support. They supported each other on issues such as triggers, flashbacks, DID/PTSD, suppressed memories and other issues.

In the months of July and August we recruited 14 new volunteers in addition to the 10 dedicated volunteers that already work hard with us. Volunteers dropped in 149 times, doing different jobs, reading policies and supporting survivors. More volunteers are showing interest in volunteering with us by phoning. In terms of monitoring and evaluating our support services, there is an ongoing

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consultation with service users and abuse support agencies on our website. Feel free to log on our website (www.izzyspromise.org.uk) and take part in the consultations. We have been busy fundraising to develop our project further. We have applied to individuals, trusts and foundations to bring in money to expand our support services, update our website and the RANS message board. We have also put our fundraising appeal on the Big Give to enable people to support our course of supporting ritual/abuse survivors and survivors of trafficking.

In an effort to try and respond to problems affecting Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) groups, we are conducting a survey aimed at identifying the support needs of such groups. This project is aimed at raising awareness and developing a training pack for use by support agencies and statutory agencies in understanding the needs of BME groups in the UK. The survey is still open so please take some time to complete it by following this link <http://www.smart-survey.co.uk/v.asp?i=22813xeete>. This will take at least 10 minutes to complete and the results of the survey will be used in designing a training pack on BME awareness. The pack will shed some light on the evidence that rituals are being used in trafficking young people to the UK for prostitution and exploitation. This pack will be useful for voluntary and statutory agencies that are in contact with BME groups.

In July we were visited by an officer from the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency (SCDEA) in charge of organised crime and human trafficking in Scotland. This is an area that Izzy's promise is keen on making a contribution in terms of supporting survivors of organised/ritual crime. We also networked via email and phone with several rape crises centres, mental health agencies, BME organisations, anti-trafficking support agencies, legal support agencies, housing agencies and trauma specialists in supporting ritual/organised abuse survivors in the UK. Some of the organisations we networked with are Shakti women's Aid Edinburgh, Black & Ethnic Minorities Scotland (BEMIS), The Survivors Trust (TST), Positive Action in Housing (PAIH), Lily Walkers Housing Dundee, Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA), Legal Services Agency (LSA), South of England Advocacy Projects (SEAP), SAVANA, SCDEA, Migrant Helpline, and Dundee Volunteer Centre among others.