



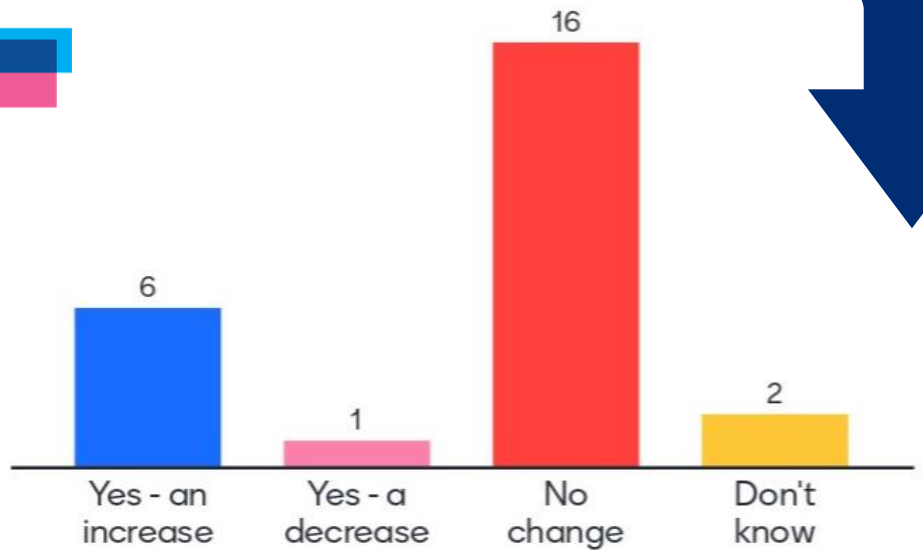
Thematic briefing 3/6 – August 2020

A network of services that support adult and child victims and survivors of domestic abuse in Scotland. Sharing practice, voicing questions and drawing on the expertise of colleagues in the sector, as we look to COVID-19 recovery planning

Monthly call theme:
BME & migrant survivors

We asked attendees about referrals numbers...

Most of the 25 services answering the question did not think they had seen a change in the numbers of BME and/or migrant women accessing their services during the pandemic



We heard from the Daisy project in Glasgow about the specific challenges BME and migrant victims face

- No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and restrictions on benefit eligibility for EU nationals severely restricts financial and accommodation options for victims fleeing domestic abuse
- Routes round these restrictions, such as the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession, are dependent on type of visa and can require a lot of documentation
- During COVID-19, NRPF was not suspended. Some homelessness services were more flexible with temporary housing during lockdown. People can apply for NRPF to be reversed based on severe poverty but this is a lengthy and complex process.

There was a consensus that many of the challenges BME and migrant survivors usually face remain the same during COVID-19, but are intensified by more limited service availability and compounded isolation in the home...see overleaf >

Services told us what they see as current challenges BME and/or migrant survivors face in accessing safety from DA

A lack of options



- No financial support due to NRPF
- Limited safe accommodation, especially in rural areas. Some encounter racist attitudes whilst in refuge.
- The language barrier means they may find it harder to find out about what options they do have.

How to deliver support



- Language barriers and lack of funded translation services is an issue for many services. This is compounded by lack of face-to-face contact.
- Victims are even more isolated at home, difficult to meet or communicate as abuser/family isolating at home.

What services told us they need to offer the right level of support to BME and/or migrant survivors

Day-to-day resources



- Funding for translation and interpreter services
- Contacts for local immigration lawyers
- Better links to specialist BME organisations who can advise
- Centralised system of support for services
- Training & education

Big picture change



- Abolish NRPF rules
- Recognise extended family abuse
- Good DA awareness amongst family and immigration lawyers and NRPF boards
- Challenge racist and sexist attitudes and systems faced by BME and migrant survivors

What next?

- The next network meeting will focus on **housing** needs & responses
- **Survivor consultation:** our survey is currently live. Next month we'll report on what victims and survivors tell us about their needs during COVID-19:

<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=159532593239>