## We are looking for women who would like to help run women’s peer support groups.

**What is the project?**

The peer support groups are part of a wider project in Haringey aimed at improving responses to women who are over 18 and have experienced domestic and/or sexual abuse and are (or are at risk of) homelessness in Haringey.

The aim is to support services in the local area to better understand women’s needs and experiences and respond in a way that acknowledges these experiences. We hope that the new peer groups will be a space for women to come together, talk about shared experiences and support each other. We also hope the groups can be a space to create ideas and solutions for longer term support and options women need in the borough. We believe that women with shared experiences know best what support and help they need.

**Who is running the project?**

AVA(Against Violence & Abuse) are leading on the project. AVA is a feminist charity committed to creating a world without gender-based violence and abuse. Our mission is to work with survivors to end gender-based violence.

**Partners**

We are working in partnership with Solace women’s Aid, IMECE women’s centre and Haringey Council to ensure women are properly supported in their role.

**Role Title: Peer support group facilitator - women’s voices group**

**Main Functions:**

* To help set up and run peer support groups in women’s homelessness settings (this may be done by phone or online if face-to-face groups can not be run due to Covid-19 restrictions)
* To help develop peer support principles and values that will guide groups
* To help shape and decide group content
* To help create safe spaces for women who have shared experience
* To be part of giving women in Haringey who have faced homelessness and domestic and/or sexual violence a voice in the borough

**Is this project for you?**

You do not need to have done anything like this before. We are looking for women with experience who understand the lives and experiences of women in the groups they run and feel able to share their own experiences. You will be given training and be supported – this is about building your skills and confidence and we want to support you to do that.

**What training and support will you receive?**

You will receive full training in understanding peer support, group facilitation, trauma responses and grounding techniques, boundary setting and creating safe spaces and safeguarding. Training will also look at group set up, recruitment and developing content and activities for groups. You will have access to a clinical supervisor who will be there to debrief after group sessions and ensure your emotional safety.

You will receive the London Living Wage (£10.75) for each group that you run to cover your time. This can be in the form of vouchers or payment.

**What are we looking for in peer group facilitators?**

We want to ensure that the voices of women who have been affected by domestic and/or sexual violence and have experienced or been at risk of homelessness shape the peer groups. As such we are looking for women who:

* Have experience of domestic and/or sexual violence
* AND, have experienced or been at risk of homelessness; this may include: being at risk of homelessness due to living with an abuser, being in temporary accommodation, rough sleeping, sofa surfing, living in a refuge, living in a hostel.
* We would like women to be prepared to share their own story with women in the groups.
* We would like women to share information about the impact of the project on their own well-being
* We ask that women are not currently experiencing gender-based violence
* We are not a frontline service, as such we ask that women have other support mechanisms in place and are not currently in a crisis situation
* We would like to ensure that the voices of BME, disabled and LGBTQI women are represented and would welcome applications from women from these groups.
* Participants will be asked to undertake a DBS check, AVA undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a criminal record check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed and welcome applicants with a criminal record. The role of the DBS check is toensure effective safeguarding. AVA will cover the cost of this.
* This is open to women across London but we particularly welcome applications from women with a Haringey connection.

If you feel like you have these experiences and would like to participate then this project is for you!

**Qualities of a peer group facilitator**

The ideal peer facilitatorwill:

* Be committed and reliable
* Be passionate about supporting women
* Be a good listener
* Treat others in a non-judgemental way
* Understand the importance of boundaries and be comfortable to ask for support
* Be keen to learn new skills
* Have discretion and ability to maintain confidentiality

**No previous group facilitation work or work experience is necessary**

The ideal peer facilitatorwill:

* Not currently be in a crisis situation
* Practice good time keeping
* Be able to work on own initiative
* Be able to participate in a group
* Feel able to communicate in group settings
* A good level of conversational and written English is required for the training

**What will you gain from the project?**

By participating in the project you will get a chance to:

* Gain key transferable skills that can be used as evidence for employers or access to further training including: verbal and written communication skills, analysis and investigation skills, evidence of self-motivation and initiative, planning and organisational skills, evidence of drive, evidence of understanding systems and organisations, evidence of time management and evidence of flexibility
* Create new understanding of women’s experiences of domestic and sexual violence and homelessness and help shape the response in Haringey
* You will receive a certificate indicating your achievement in the training
* You will receive payment for your time in helping to lead groups
* You will get a chance to shape the work of a national charity and help us develop our response to supporting women who have faced similar experiences to you.

**Time Commitment and expenses**

Facilitatorswill:

* Commit to attending up to 3 days of training in autumn of 2020 - this will be delivered in a series of online sessions or through worksheets and phone calls if you do not have access to a computer.
* Help arrange and run peer support groups in homelessness settings at least once a fortnight. If there are Covid restrictions we will look at options to run virtual sessions.
* Time commitment: the groups are funded to run until March 2021 - with a possible extension until June 2021
* Will receive money to pay travel and expenses including childcare costs
* Will receive the London Living Wage (£10.75) for the time you spend organising and running the groups.

**How do you apply?**

If you are interested in becoming a peer facilitator then please fill out the form below. We want to recruit women with a wide range of experiences and as such it is fine to discuss the form with others and get help in filling it out.

We ask that you provide us with a reference. We would like this to be someone who knows you through their job for example a former employer or support worker - someone who has known you for at least a year. We ask that you choose someone that it is ok for us to contact before offering you a place.

Remember to complete:

* Why are you interested in the role
* What experience do you have that makes you suitable for the role
* The name of a person who can give you a reference
* Please also complete the equalities monitoring form - this information will not influence recruitment.

Please either email the form to Lucy Allwright at lucy.allwright@avaproject.org.uk or send it by post to: Lucy Allwright, AVA, The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London, SE11 5RR. Lucy will then give you a call to have a quick chat about the project

The closing date for applications is September 7th 2020

**If you have any questions please feel free to email or call Lucy Allwright on** **lucy.allwright@avaproject.org.uk** **or 07908 995 337 - We are happy to call you back!**

**Please answer the following on no more than two sides – it is ok to hand write if you wish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Your Name:** |  |
| **Contact Telephone Number:** |  |
| **Address:** |  |
| **Email Address (If you have one):** |  |
| **AVA have a range of training, events and opportunities. Please confirm if you would like your email address to be added to our newsletter**  | Delete as appropriate:YesNo  |
| **Contact details of Referee:** |  |
| **Why are you are interested in the role?**  |
| **What experience do you have that makes you suitable for the role?** |

**Your wellbeing and mental health**

We want to ensure that the women we work with are in a safe place**;** as such we ask that you are not currently facing violence and abuse. We also ask that should your situation change that you are able to access support.

We also understand that your mental health and wellbeing can change over time. We ask that you have strategies and support systems in place.

If you get a place on the programme we ask that you complete a DBS record check. AVA will arrange and pay for the check.

A DBS check is a record of a person's criminal convictions and cautions – carried out by the Disclosure and Barring Service. We actively encourage women with criminal records to apply. However, because the work will involve working alongside women who have faced violence and abuse we legally have to ensure all volunteers and paid staff are not barred from working with this group. Please do get in touch if you are not sure about this.

Please confirm the below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I confirm I am not currently experiencing abuse  |  |
| I have a plan in place for if I face abuse and know what services / supporters to contact |  |
| I confirm that I am able to access help or have strategies in place to support my own mental health  |  |
| I confirm I am happy to complete a DBS check  |  |

While AVA are specialists in domestic and sexual violence we are not a direct support service. We will support you in your training and development but are not able to provide direct support related to violence and abuse. We do have links to organisations that can offer support if you tellus that you need help.

If you are currently facing domestic abuse you can contact the free 24 National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247; the helpline offers BT typetalk for callers with hearing difficulties and also offers access to interpreters.

If you would like support or information around sexual violence, including incidents that happened in the past, Rape Crisis have a national helpline**.** It offers confidential emotional support, information and referral details. Open between 12:00-14:30 and 19:00-21:30 every day of the year. Number: 0808 802 9999

For a listening ear or just someone to talk to the Samaritans are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can call them on 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org

**Equalities Monitoring Information**

AVA wishes to monitor the effectiveness of its Equal Opportunities Policy and ensure that no direct or indirect discrimination is taking place. In order to help us do this we would like you to complete this form. This form will be detached from your application form and will not be used to influence the selection process in any way.

Please choose one option from each of the sections listed below and then tick or place an X in the appropriate box. **If you prefer to leave any questions blank then please do so.**

**A. Age**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Under 16 |  |
| 16 - 24 |  |
| 25 - 34 |  |
| 35 - 44 |  |
| 45 - 54 |  |
| 55 - 64 |  |
| 65+ |  |

**B. Disability**

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

**Do you consider yourself to have a disability according to the terms given in the Equality Act 2010?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

**C. Gender Identity**

Please describe how you identify your gender.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Male |  |
| Female |  |
| Non-binary |  |
| Prefer to define your gender as(please write)  |  |

**D. Sexual orientation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bisexual |  |
| Gay man |  |
| Lesbian  |  |
| Heterosexual |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |

**E. Ethnic group**

**Asian, Asian British, Asian English, Asian Scottish, or Asian Welsh**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bangladeshi |  |
| Indian |  |
| Pakistani |  |
| Any other Asian background (specify if you wish) |  |

**Black, Black British, Black English, Black Scottish, or Black Welsh**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| African |  |
| Caribbean  |  |
| Any other Black background (specify if you wish) |  |

**Chinese, Chinese British, Chinese English, Chinese Scottish, or Chinese Welsh, or other ethnic group**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chinese  |  |
| Any other ethnic background (specify if you wish) |  |

**Mixed**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| White and Asian |  |
| White and Black African |  |
| White and Black Caribbean |  |
| White and Chinese |  |
| Any other Mixed background (specify if you wish) |  |

**White**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| British |  |
| English |  |
| Irish  |  |
| Scottish |  |
| Welsh |  |
| Any other White background (specify if you wish) |  |

**F. Religion or belief**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No religion |  |
| Baha’i |  |
| Buddhist |  |
| Christian |  |
| Hindu |  |
| Jain |  |
| Jewish |  |
| Muslim |  |
| Sikh |  |
| Any other religion or belief (specify if you wish) |  |

We understand that this form ask you to place your identity into particular categories as such if you wish to give us any feedback about the form or would like to say anything further about your identity please feel free to comment below