



FREE Training for criminal defence and prison law lawyers:
Representing victims of domestic abuse who are accused or convicted
of offending

Saturday, 13 May 2023, 9.30-4.30, Central London

Please join us for this free, in-person training event delivered by leading expert practitioners:

Harriet Wistrich, Solicitor & Director, Centre for Women's Justice
Jacqui Kilburn & Dr Bianca Petkova, National Training Centre, Women's Aid
Paramjit Ahluwalia, Lamb Building
Bridget Irving, Consultant Solicitor, Goldman Bailey Solicitors
Rachel Chapman, Prison Law Consultant, Broudie Jackson Canter

About the Centre for Women's Justice

Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) is a lawyer-led charity focused on challenging failings and discrimination against women in the criminal justice system. We carry out strategic litigation and work closely with frontline women's sector organisations on using legal tools to challenge police and prosecution failings around violence against women and girls. Our evidence base is built on the experience of frontline women's sector support workers discussed during our training sessions with them, the requests for legal advice they send to us, and our research. In 2021 we responded to a total of 1,081 legal enquiries, including 559 in which we gave legal advice.

About the training

CWJ has developed a new training programme for criminal defence and prison lawyers – both barristers and solicitors – on representing victims of domestic abuse who find themselves accused or convicted of offending. We identified the need for the training through [research](#) into the failings in law and practice that can lead to suspects/defendants not being identified as victims and/or their experience of abuse not being properly taken into account in criminal justice decision-making.

At this free, one-day event we will test out our new training sessions before the full launch of the training programme in Summer 2023. The training will include input from a woman with lived experience of standing trial for alleged offences arising from her experience of domestic abuse. Details of the programme for the day, and more information about our trainers, are given overleaf.

For more information and to register your place at the training day, please contact us and put **LAWYERS' TRAINING in your email title:**

info@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk

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Programme

Time	Session	Trainers
9.30am	Understanding domestic abuse and victims' offending	Harriet Wistrich Solicitor & Director, CWJ Jacqui Kilburn & Dr Bianca Petkova, National Training Centre, Women's Aid Woman with lived experience of standing trial for alleged offences arising from her experience of domestic abuse
11.00am	At the police station	Bridget Irving, Consultant Solicitor, Goldman Bailey Solicitors
12.30pm	Lunch break	
1.00pm	Proceedings in the Crown Court	Paramjit Ahluwalia, Lamb Building
2.30pm	Parole	Rachel Chapman, Prison Law Consultant, Broudie Jackson Canter
4.00pm	Participants' feedback	
4.30pm	Finish	

Our trainers

[Harriet Wistrich](#), Solicitor & Director, Centre for Women's Justice

Harriet is the founder and director of the Centre for Women's Justice and a solicitor of 25 years' experience who worked for many years with renowned civil liberties firm, Birnberg Peirce Ltd. She is the winner of the Liberty Human Rights Lawyer of the Year award 2014, Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year 2018 for public law and Law Society Gazette personality of the year 2019. She has acted in many high profile cases concerning violence against women and on behalf of women appealing murder convictions for killing abusive partners, most recently Sally Challen and Fariessia Martin.

[Jacqui Kilburn](#), National Training Centre Manager, Women's Aid

Jacqui manages the National Training Centre at Women's Aid. She has been instrumental in the development of a national accredited qualification for those professionals whose work brings them into contact with domestic and sexual violence. Jacqui also worked with the

Home Office and Skills for Justice in their work towards developing the national occupational standards for the domestic and sexual violence sector.

Dr Bianca Petkova, Training Officer, Women's Aid

Bianca Petkova has a doctorate in psychology from the University of Birmingham. She worked as an academic psychologist for over a decade, mostly lecturing at the University of Worcester. Since moving to the domestic abuse sector she has occupied different professional roles, involving direct work with survivors, multiagency work, training of professionals and the development and running of programmes for survivors of domestic abuse. Since joining Women's Aid in 2008, Bianca has developed and delivered many accredited and bespoke courses for practitioners in the field of domestic abuse, including for work with legal professionals.

Paramjit Ahluwalia, Lamb Building

Paramjit Ahluwalia is an experienced criminal defence barrister specialising in criminal appeals and defence in serious criminal cases, with a high profile practice. She has successfully represented individuals coerced into criminal offending (such as an individual subjected to sex work, conviction quashed despite being over 15 years old in R v O [2019] EWCA Crim 1389). She regularly advises in cases involving psychiatric, expert medical evidence and pathology. Recent work on cases on domestic homicide trials include R v Emma Jayne Magson and R v Farieissia Martin.

Bridget Irving, Consultant Solicitor, Goldman Bailey Solicitors

Bridget Irving is an experienced Court and Police Station Duty Solicitor and has been a Higher Court Advocate since 2005. She regularly appears in the Crown Court, as well as representing clients in the Magistrates Court, Youth Court and Police Stations. Bridget has a particular interest in, and experience of, representing children, young people and women charged with serious offences, and has represented a number of women accused of killing their violent partners. She was a core member of Justice for Women for many years and is an active campaigner around issues affecting women in the criminal justice system.

Rachel Chapman, Prison Law Consultant, Broudie Jackson Canter

Rachel Chapman is a Prison Law Consultant specialising in representing women prisoners. She covers all aspects of prison law including advocacy at parole hearings. Rachel was a member on the Executive Committee of the Association of Prison Lawyers (APL) for 7 years and the Parole Board lead for 3 years. She works closely with PAS (Prisoners Advice Service) and for some time held a monthly clinic for them at HMP Styal to ensure that the women could still receive prison law advice even without legal aid. Rachel completed a Griffins fellowship into the challenges women lifers face before and after release. She has provided training for Datalaw, APL, PAS and in women's prisons for prisoners and staff. She has worked as a lecturer in criminal justice at Liverpool John Moore's University and Liverpool Hope university.