

A banner for the North East Feminist Gathering. The text is white on a dark purple background with a red and green brushstroke pattern. The dates 11.10.14 - 12.10.14 are on the right.

NORTH EAST

FEMINIST GATHERING

11.10.14 - 12.10.14

Protest, Activism & Direct Action on Sexual Violence

Panel Biographies

Jo Costello

Jo is firmly committed to working with other professionals within services for women and believes passionately in justice and fair treatment for women and girls, and actively campaign to promote greater awareness of the impact of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Jo co-founded Ending Victimisation & Blame (EVB), an innovative and ground breaking organisation which has provided a 'safe space' for victims to share their experiences. Alongside of this, EVB has enabled her to tackle inequalities and discrimination in press reporting, and to challenge media outlets on appropriate language.

Jo has a background in social care and welfare which has enabled me to develop key, transferable skills in working with women, children and young people in a variety of situations. She currently works as Training and Development Officer for Coventry Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC).

Liliane Lengoleme

Liliane Lengoleme is an activist who has lived in the NE for the past 9 years. Co-founder of Mamas Rise Up, which is a specialist organisation that empowers ethnic minority women.

Her work spans across partnerships with local and international women to shed more light on the untold truth about the situation of women and children living in economically unstable environments such as conflict or war zones - especially in the Republic of Congo where she originates from.

As a Pan Africanist and cultural broker, her works revolves around helping women and children of minority ethnic groups to embrace diversity, their identity whilst maintaining core values of their cultural heritage even as they settle in their new country of adoption the UK.

Lizi Gray

Lizi has been active in the feminist movement in the North East since 2011, organising the first Newcastle Slutwalk at the age of 16. Since then Lizi has set up feminist societies at both Newcastle College and Northumbria University in order to get more young women interested and active in Feminism.

Lizi has been involved in the planning group of North East Feminist Gathering since its first year. Lizi is currently the Women Students' Rep at Northumbria University and hopes to use this position to tackle lad culture and sexism on campus.

A banner with a dark purple background and a red and green brushstroke pattern. The text is in white, bold, sans-serif font.

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Sue Griffiths

Chair of Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland Trustees, Sue has long been a researcher and an activists around the issue of violence against women; both researching women and Domestic Violence (specifically the policing of Domestic Violence and evaluation of Domestic Violence projects) and rape trials.

As an activist Sue is part of the Justice for Women organisation that supports and campaigns on behalf of women who have fought back or killed in response to Domestic Violence; she is an active member of RCTN having been a Trustee for the last eight years.

Umme Imam

Umme Imam is Executive Director of The Angelou Centre, a minority women's organisation which has promoted economic independence for BAMER women in the North East. It is nationally recognised for its holistic support and advocacy for women and children survivors of domestic abuse. Umme has extensive experience in community development work, especially in relation to domestic violence, in India (where she was born and educated) and in the UK, where over the last twenty eight years has been active in the development and management of a range of voluntary projects for minority women as well as ensuring their strategic representation locally and nationally.

She was part of a collective which set up The Angelou Centre and joined it following her retirement from Durham University as lecturer in Community and Youth Work (1993-2005). As an academic she has worked, researched and published to highlight the impact of domestic violence on South Asian women and children. She has co-authored *Children's Perspectives on Domestic Violence*, was part of the collective that campaigned to set up and PANAHAH refuge in Newcastle and currently co-ordinates the Black Women's Domestic Violence Network. The Centre also co-ordinates the North East Women's Network