

Leeds Domestic Violence Cluster Court

We are a key agency in the first Domestic Violence Court in the UK. Each week Leeds Magistrates Court has a Court dedicated to Domestic Violence cases. The Court is unique due to the fact that HALT have a representative each week, being able to offer immediate and independent advice and support to women who attend. Also we can input to the Police and CPS of any further information that we have to support the case.

Mr Roddy Minogue, Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Cluster Court, said "The recognition for the work of HALT is a tremendous achievement for a very committed team, who work tirelessly for women involved in the legal system. HALT have played a most important role in the first Domestic Violence Court in the country and are being recognised nationally, increasingly with the Home Office and the Lord Chancellors Department."

Partnership Working

HALT are an independent charity, however work in partnership with a number of agencies and are a key agency in many of the city-wide fora addressing the issue of violence against women and children.

HALT have developed a very pro-active working relationship with the police, amongst other agencies, gaining direct referrals, being able to reduce the time that women wait to be contacted.

Mr Gordon Airy, District Legal Manager, Leeds Magistrates Court, commented "HALT have been a major player in the inter-agency response to Domestic Violence in the Leeds area, they have provided continuous support to the Leeds Domestic Violence Cluster Court and have had a major impact in providing ongoing support for victims, making victims aware of their legal remedies, and changing their perceptions from the view that courts treat violence within relationships as 'just a domestic'."

Inspector Martin Deacon, West Yorkshire Police, said "HALT have played a key role in supporting victims of Domestic Violence through the court system. We regularly recognise the direct link between HALT's involvement and intervention and women's ability to access the criminal justice system. We are proud of the relationship that we have developed with HALT and the way, by partnership working, that women have more support through the system."

Thanks to the Staff Team, Volunteers, Trustees and Advisory Group for all of their work, support and commitment throughout a very busy year.

Thanks to our major funder's **COMMUNITY FUND** (previously National Lottery Charities Board)

COMMUNITY FUND

Lottery money making a difference

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Review 2001

"If I'd known then what it'd be like to be a witness, how they'd all treat me, I'm not sure I'd have gone through with it. It was only your support that got me through, by being on my side every step of the way and keeping me involved."

Woman supported by HALT Advocate



Charity number: 1087583

Our Year

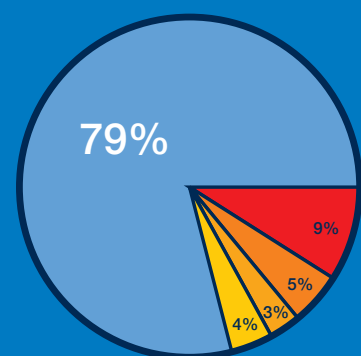
We have received more referrals and supported more women than ever before. For the last year we supported 1019 women. This figure is more than 50% higher than last year, and is four times higher than at the end of 1999.

This shows more of an awareness of our services within other agencies and within the general public. We have also seen a significant increase in referrals from West Yorkshire Police, this is due to more pro-active partnership working. This means that women are contacted sooner and are given immediate legal advice, support and advocacy options.

Referral Sources

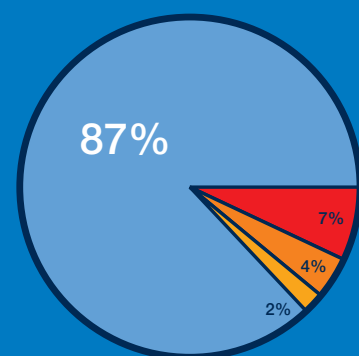
| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Police | 79% |
| Self | 9% |
| Statutory Agencies | 5% |
| Voluntary Agencies | 3% |
| Others | 4% |

(Solicitors, family, friend, met in court)



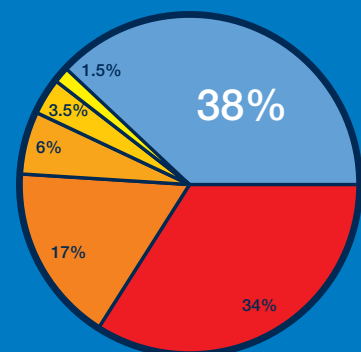
Ethnicity of Woman Supported

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| White | 87% |
| Asian or Asian British | 7% |
| Black/Black British | 4% |
| Mixed Race | 2% |



Age of Woman Supported

| | |
|----------|------|
| Under 20 | 6% |
| 21 - 30 | 34% |
| 31 - 40 | 38% |
| 41 - 50 | 17% |
| 51 - 60 | 3.5% |
| 60+ | 1.5% |



National Recognition

We were set up specifically to specialise in helping women with the legal system. It is often at this stage that women are the most let down in terms of protection and support.

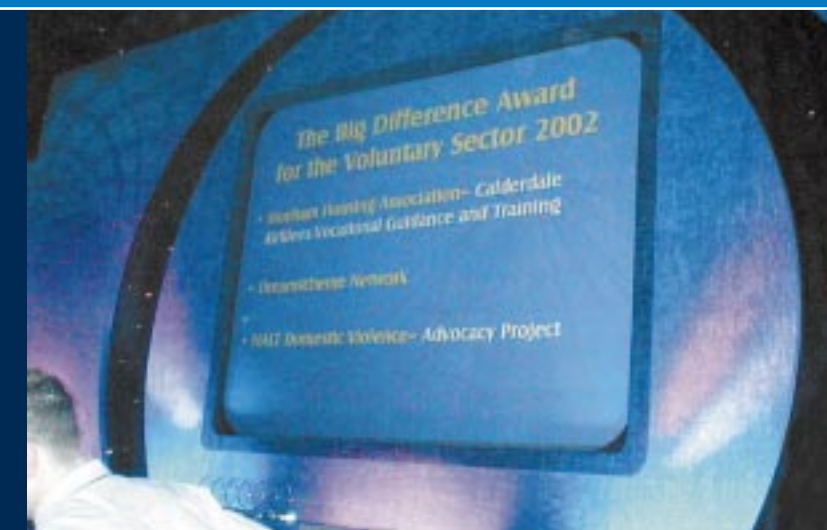
HALT's innovative work, and the way we work with other agencies, adds value to the process and means that more women can be protected and supported. We are gaining widespread national recognition for our work as it not only supports women who have experienced Domestic Violence related crime, but works with them and other agencies to reduce repeat victimisation. (Unsurprisingly Domestic Violence has the highest rate of repeat victimisation than any other crime).

Over the last few years, the work of HALT has become more widely known both locally and nationally. HALT was one of the first organisations in the UK set up to specifically work within the civil and criminal justice systems, working with women who have experienced Domestic Violence. Some other areas around the UK are setting up projects based on the work of HALT.

We have also done presentations and training with judges, locally and nationally, around the issues of Domestic Violence and the legal system.

Regional Recognition

HALT have also been nominated for a Big Issue in the North "Big Difference 2002" Award for outstanding achievements for work in the voluntary sector for the North of England. HALT was one of three short-listed, in a category heavy with nominations.



Ms Nik Peasgood, Manager of HALT, said "This is an important occasion for the staff and volunteers at HALT, but particularly for the women that we work with. We are constantly getting positive feedback from women saying they could not have continued with any legal proceedings without our help. I just hope that this recognition of our work, along with growing national recognition, can help us to continue and develop our unique and innovative service".