

Southall Black Sisters Recommendations for General Election

- 1. Extend the DVILR and DDVC model to all migrant victims of abuse**, regardless of their immigration status, to prevent them from being trapped in violent relationships.
- 2. Abolish No Recourse to Public Funds** to allow migrants to seek recourse.
- 3. Extend the current three-month provision to six months** to give victims the ‘breathing space’ to resolve problems by seeking advice and recover from abuse, and to encourage more refuge providers to accept referrals and not turn victims away.
- 4. Introduce a firewall to stop data sharing** between the police and Immigration Enforcement to enable victims to come forward to report abuse and seek help.
- 5. Ring fence sufficient, sustainable funding for specialist holistic ‘by and for’ refuge and community-based services** for migrant women, which are usually their first or key source of support enabling them to report abuse and access mainstream services.¹
- 6. Invest more in the devolved nations and Northern England** in order to ‘level up’ provision for migrant victims, including in specialist holistic ‘by and for’ services.²
- 7. Remove the reservation on Article 59 of the Istanbul Convention**, which entitles all migrant victims facing domestic abuse from a partner/spouse to the right to residency. This will encourage more victims to come forward and uphold migrant women’s human rights.
- 8. Develop a national strategy to support migrant victims** of gender-based violence.
- 9. Introduce Banaz’s Law** to add the use of ‘honour’ as a motive as an aggravating factor for sentencing.

¹ Domestic Abuse Commissioner, 2022, Mapping Domestic Abuse Services. Accessible from: <https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/DAC-Mapping-Briefing-Paper-05.pdf>

² Ibid