

## General Election 2024

### Key Demands for Migrant Victim-Survivors

1. **Extend the combined Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession (MVDAC) and Domestic Violence Indefinite Leave to Remain (DVILR) model** to all victim-survivors, regardless of their immigration status, to prevent them from being trapped in abusive relationships.
2. **Extend the current three-month MVDAC provision to six-months** to give victim-survivors 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 victim-survivors away.
3. **Abolish No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)**. This restrictive condition prohibits over 2.58 million people in the UK from accessing public funds (universal credit and housing benefits)<sup>1</sup>. NRPF is a major barrier that prevents vulnerable victim-survivors from approaching the state for support.
4. **Introduce a firewall to stop data-sharing between the police, statutory agencies and Immigration Enforcement** to enable victim-survivors to come forward to report abuse and seek help without fear of deportation.
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. *By and for* organisations currently operate at a funding shortfall of 39% and are six-times less likely to receive government funding despite being extremely effective<sup>2</sup>.
6. **Remove the reservation on Article 59 of the Istanbul Convention** which entitles all migrant victim-survivors facing domestic abuse from a partner/spouse to the right to residency. This will encourage more victim-survivors to come forward and uphold migrant women's human rights.
7. **Develop a national, intersectional strategy to support migrant victim-survivors** of violence against women and girls for fostering prevention and tackling barriers to seeking support.
8. **Invest more in the devolved nations and Northern England** in order to 'level up' provision for migrant victim-survivors, including in specialist holistic *by and for* services.

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<sup>1</sup> Cuius, M., and Fernández-Reino, M. (2023) Deprivation and the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Condition. Oxford: The Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford [online] Accessed on 28th February 2024. <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/MigObs-Briefing-Deprivation-and-the-norecourse-to-public-funds-NRPF-condition.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Sheil, F. 2020. Calculating the Cost of Domestic Violence and COVID-19 on Specialist Services for Black and Minoritised Women and Girls in England, Scotland and Wales.