

## **Oral History Interview Transcript**

**Interviewee: Anonymous**

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**Location: Edinburgh**

**Time: 00:41:51**

**Interviewer: Aoife Keenan**

**Time period: 1980s, 1990s**

**Groups: Scottish Women's Aid**

**Roles: Training and development worker**

Yeah.

*Yeah.*

I think I can say some things about the external links.

*Mmhm.*

I was involved between 1989 and 1990, mainly, although I did some other work with local groups afterwards and I was always ... Then afterwards I went and worked with Rape Crisis for three years...

*Ok.*

...and I worked on policy and violence against women with local authorities...

*Ok, so you've got a spectrum...*

...yeah, with local authorities, yeah with two local authorities after that ... But, um ... It was always about building bridges, so every week, which still happens now, every four to six weeks we would go to Tulliallan – sometimes just one person because there wasn't enough women – and deliver a seminar at the police college at Tulliallan, yeah. And at that time we just started training the sheriffs as well so, um ... Also the other thing that happened was, that some employers, local authority

employers – obviously, the majority of workers are women – they started wanting us to do training in-house for people, what they called domestic abuse liaison people, so we did a couple of the whole, you know, local authorities, trained them, developed all this work ... Yeah, Children's Panel as well at that time and I remember doing some sessions where at the end, you know, a couple of the Children's Panel members or organisers would come up to me and say they never actually considered the dynamic of abuse within the actual panel, so that was extremely ... You know, it was extremely useful.

*Ok.*

I mean, the same issues are around now. There's a rediscovery and discovery ... If you think even of the storyline of *The Archers* you think, oh my goodness here we are again and it's being rediscovered just as the whole thing about men and refuges is rediscovered every few years and there's a little ... So, you know, it's plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose but you do see some progression but at that time it was early days in a way, in lots of ways, even though it was, you know ... We were still trying to fight for the implementation of the national, um, Matrimonial Homes Act, Family Protection Act, things like that. Yeah, so it was a fascinating time. The other thing I was involved in, obviously, the Zero Tolerance campaigns ... and what was Strathclyde, which used to be all the local authorities in the West ... I don't know if you heard of this...

*Mmhm.*

During the regions ... It used to be Strathclyde region so they commissioned us to be involved in a training for trainers programme, a training programme, yeah, and the police as well, Strathclyde police we were involved along with Easterhouse Women's Aid, developing a training programme and a training for trainers programme for the largest police force in Scotland. So, it was really gaining entry to all these things, you know, so ... I was actually taken along to the training school, you know, in Glasgow and, uh, had to negotiate that and it was tough because we didn't have the power but they did want something [laughs] so we had to do all that sort of gaining inroads into every single organisation. And, similarly, where there were new groups being set up locally ... I went up to Orkney but, unfortunately, it was just near the time of the Orkney inquiry. I don't know if you remember ...

Well, that's history now but ... There was a case and, um ... That was the third attempt to start up that new group and it just was so hard.

*Mmhm.*

It really depended on the local political climate just as much as the national thing as, you know, every local area has its own character...

*Yeah.*

...and it seemed to have its own character, its own sort of view of the issue of violence against women. I remember in Turriff once we were said, 'Oh, that doesn't happen here'. Yeah, that's all the way up north in the Highlands. You know, we don't need a Women's Aid group, we don't need a service or they'd say, 'Oh well, we're not gonna pay for a service because you can't prove there are any phone calls from women in our area'. Yeah, you know, you have to have the chapter and the verse. So, it was quite tough.

*Yeah, it sounds it.*

And I think because of the toughness of the external environment sometimes it was tough for women, uh, because they felt the threat so they would sometimes take it out on one another internally.

*Ok.*

Yeah, because that was the only place they would get support. It was almost a siege mentality sometimes, which isn't healthy sometimes but you can see why it happens because it's so hard.

**00:05:03** *So, do you want to tell me maybe, just, from the beginning what your connection to Women's Aid was and why you got involved with Women's Aid in the first place?*

Right, well, I was doing something in community work and I used to get Women's Aid groups in to speak about the service they were offering. Yeah, um, and I basically ... When I qualified I had done a lot of training and development and adult education, adult learning and I'd also done a lot of, sort of,

women's groups and stuff like that and I just thought it was the ideal job for me. I was very lucky to get it. Yeah, at that time there was a small training department, sort of one and two-thirds people and we were based in the new town at St Colme St in a building there, the top floor, the attic, a horrible sort of building, couldn't use the water because it was, like, sort of, old plumbing and stuff like that or you had to run it for hours before it was palatable so ... Don't know how many women got poisoned [laughs], um, and, um, in fact, at that ... The Scottish Government had given ... The whole rationale of the Scottish Government or the Scottish Executive, as it used to be, for funding Women's Aid was apparently because of the children, in order to protect the children. They weren't really interested in women and I was told this by a senior civil servant called **[name anonymised]**, who's long retired, that it was the whole rationale and she was, in fact, on the panel who appointed me. **[Name anonymised]** was an amazing woman, you always found these odd people who'd be advocates for you even though they weren't supposed to be. So, she actually arranged for this Section 10 grant at the Scottish Government to include a training unit which is the first in the UK.

*That's brilliant.*

Yeah, in fact, years later when a big insurance company was devoting some money, um, to setting up services throughout the UK [laughs] they came to meet with us and they liked the model and then they gave money to Women's Aid in England for the same thing but didn't give us any money [laughs]. Oh well, you know, that was a bit much but, yeah, you know, so it was, it wasn't usual for this money ... this development sort of stuff to be done.

*And was that the ... Your main role was in that training group throughout your time at Women's Aid?*

Yeah, absolutely, yeah.

**00:07:42** *Brilliant. And what were the different ideas connected with Women's Aid that were important to you at the time? So, you know, in society or books or films or anything that you felt was important to you...*

Well, obviously, the feminist analysis was the main thing and also the continual ... well, the battle for gender equality. I mean, I had a young daughter who was two [laughs] when I started and I was a single parent so, you know, I was living these issues very much myself so it wasn't just ... It was the

personal and the political all mixed up and it was just, it wasn't just a job it was my life really [laughs].

*Yeah.*

So, I think I'd always been a feminist from a very, very early age ever since my sister became an engineer, and she's older than me, and I saw her struggle d'you know and, in fact, my daughter has an engineering degree so it's all about trying to, in a very small way, change society d'you know and to say that all the issues that are unseen are important, you know, because people don't see gender inequality. I was amazed at Nottingham Council, the police service now actually recording misogyny as a separate ... And I wish that was done everywhere and it should have been done years ago but it isn't, it isn't seen as important, you know, so the struggle continues and will always continue.

*It does.*

So, I was glad and I learned a tremendous amount and I was glad to participate in a small way because it's my life in a way, I can't not ... It's very, very strong belief that ... it's an injustice towards 52% of the population who are, ironically, sometimes called a minority.

**00:09:49** *So, can you describe a day in the life of your Women's Aid group?*

[Laughs] Oh my goodness, well, we were a collective which was great so it could be ... We did a weekly mailing to all the local groups, so about 35 when I was there, which was a huge thing because we had to ... quite often we had a collator that didn't work. We sent out papers as well at that time so it could be anything ... answering the phones and we quite often got calls from women even though, you know, we would refer them to local groups. We also got some women dropping in even though, you know, we were sort of an admin office, stuff like that. So, it could be anything like doing a stint ... And we did a week at a time it was, a time on the phones, all of us. There was about 12 of us and 12 or 10 weeks depending on who was around ... people off on holiday. And that was great because that always grounded you, yeah, and even to analyse who'd called in was important, you know, in terms of agencies and requests and stuff like that. We'd have a weekly collective meeting which was fun [laughs], usually quite a long meeting as you probably know about collectives, which

was great and we also had a really good system that, I think, was quite innovative at the time that you had to really do most things. So, you learned a tremendous amount because you'd maybe do three months or something on the finance subgroup internally and then you'd go to the media you see, so it was a tremendous thing. You had your core work but you also had collective work and I think that's fantastic. So, you could almost see it as now sometimes you have time limited teams in organisations and I don't know why there isn't more of that.

*So you feel...*

I mean, I'm a strong believer in collective work...

*Yeah.*

...um, if it maintains a, sort of, democracy. I mean, democracy is a very problematic word and I ... I'm still pondering this, what true democracy is, how to give everyone an equal voice where people aren't equal in terms of the way they present, in terms of the way they might be shyer, you know. So, it was a huge thing. So, for me, that was at the core of collective working trying to, in a microcosm, balance the inequalities of society, set up this microstructure within that was fairer. Not easy...

*No.*

...but very, very challenging times, yeah.

**00:12:23** *So, would you like to talk about your work with external organisations? So, you talked about delivering training, but also police and social work in other respects?*

Yeah, everything you can imagine, housing departments...

*Yeah.*

So, it was pretty full on, and, obviously, you can imagine a lot of people didn't want to hear what ... And I think **[name anonymised]** who's **[name anonymised]** doing training just now, she's written an article in another book about dealing with resistance, you know, and I think she wrote it about three

years ago so it's also a really interesting article just the same, you know. So, it's always going in there not knowing what to expect and how you could be very sensitive to people, particularly if it's a one-day session. Because we did we did try and always have two people [but] it wasn't always possible because we had to be very sensitive knowing that there were a lot of survivors in the audience or in the training group so we tried to do as much as possible in smaller groups like 12-16 so you could engage, you could have dialogue, yeah, and you could suss out where people are and tailor your programme sensitively and I do remember one police event, um ... It was always the most moving part was often where we talked about child survivors, witnesses, child witnesses because I remember two occasions where child witnesses in the audience hadn't thought of themselves like that and actually wanted to chat or broke down. One was in a police training and one was in an NHS training. Yeah, so you always had to do it very sensitively, you had to adapt and think on your feet, particularly if you were a lone trainer ... How the audience was, you know, so you didn't take them too far and, ideally, have someone on standby, you know, who could go out and talk.

*So, you went out to the police, NHS...*

Yeah, hospitals, went up north to a hospital, housing, police, criminal justice, sheriffs, um ... We did, as I say, local authorities, some other, other departments...

**00:14:54** *And did your experiences vary with those different groups?*

There were a lot of similar issues [laughs] but we did, um ... Yeah, I mean, I'm thinking it really depended ... A lot of people still didn't want to hear, you know, and I remember one conference full of RE teachers, religious education teachers. It was a weekend conference and there was a guy at the back started heckling me [laughs], um, and so I just, you know, I just did what I usually did, I pretended to be a teacher. I said, 'Would you like to share that...', you know. Yeah, yeah, yeah and afterwards, the organisers said, 'You dealt with that really, really well'. After that, you know, he wasn't listening to anything during the weekend, but after that ... So, you know, you had to be quite ... But you had to be respectful of, uh, and realise that often that person was a survivor as well. Because afterwards, always, people would come up to you afterwards ... I remember a CAB thing, I did Citizens Advice Bureau, a guy came and he said, yeah, he, you know, it was the first time he'd realised and it was very moving because he wanted to share a lot of his stuff, you know, and,

obviously, I pointed him to ... But he said things, 'Really, I didn't get into relationships because I was so scared I could repeat this' and you ... So, the power of those myths about cycle of abuse are so damaging, you know not ... Just so hugely damaging. So, that was certainly one thing we always tried to counteract and I remember training some foster carers or potential foster carers and I was actually shocked at their views, how damaging they would be for the children they were fostering and also the workers, the social workers, firmly believed that women were the majority of abusers because, of course, you know, the statistics recorded, the figures recorded of so-called neglect was recorded and the actual abuse was not separate, it was not, you know ... It was just a blanket figure in one local authority. So, the things even about recording that perpetrated the myths which we tried to change but you can't change everything at once so often it was really by somehow, by force of your belief you had to be sensitive but, at the time, but you had to be really firm and you had to have everything at your fingertips, you had to do all your research and have everything just there because the most important always with training is how you answer questions, you know, that ... So, it was a lot of learning all the time and trying to be really on the ball [laughs]. I don't know how I did it looking back because it was really exhausting to do a whole day and often[I] did it by myself, you know.

**00:17:54** *So, um, do you want to talk a little bit about Women's Aid's work with children, if you were involved in that?*

Well, to the degree of developing training materials with the children's workers. So, we tried to develop things that were experiential as well, yeah, and that's, obviously, where it becomes a sensitive issue but it was so important because some workers would have absolutely no sympathy for the ch- ... for the mother or for the woman, say, you know, why doesn't she leave, yeah. So, I remember along, um ... **[Name anonymised]**, she's a clinical psychologist, but she used to work part time in greater Easterhouse, but she developed a great story to illustrate that, you know, about the interaction between the children and the women and how all the difficulties of leaving and the implication on the children and stuff like that. So, we tried to use that in a way because even if you don't think that women are valuable at all in their own right you have to consider them as, you know, you can't separate, you know, the woman and the children's needs and that the women have just as much priority as the children, do you see what I mean?

*Mmhm.*

But you don't want to infantilise what was happening. You either say, 'This poor woman she can't cope', 'Excuse me, anyone would act like that in that sort of situation'. So, you know, it was sort of trying to get the sympathy, really, for the woman [laughs], which was only just...

*Yeah.*

But that was hard often...

*And you mentioned...*

...because the children were always seen as deserving and vulnerable...

*Yeah.*

...but the women were never seen as deserving, they were always seen as bad or inadequate. Terribly, unjustly, because everything was against them leaving, you know, financially, emotionally, the way women are seen, well, were seen and still are sometimes in terms of appendages to men or whatever. You know what I mean.

*Mmhm, and you mentioned working with the Children's Panel as well...?*

Yeah, yeah we did a ... We developed programmes for different Children's Panels in different areas. We had no authority to go in and ask them to do that but it was just some of them were receptive so we were always trying to gain entry.

*Yeah.*

Yep, and also at that time, um, we did have involvement for there was a programme called Change which was about changing men. Did you, did you hear about it?

*Mmhm.*

Started in America.

Ok.

Yeah, and there was a version created for Scotland at that time around the 19- ... or when was it? ... about the late ... from the mid-90s. So, there was a programme in Stirling through the links of the Dobashes at Stirling University who we met, and there was one in Edinburgh. So, we had involvement. So, it's myth about Women's Aid not supporting programmes for men, it's a total myth and I don't know if it's still around ... Well, the recent case, of course, was the thing one of the local groups who had a man on ... Did you hear about that? So, it's always been an issue. It's hard, it's a very hard one but, obviously, you know, it's, um ... It's a way of trashing, I think, you know...

Yeah.

I mean, Women's Aid has a right ... There's always been a thing about women's, spaces for women not being acceptable to society, being threatening [laughs], unfortunately.

Mmhm.

But anyway, that's probably not answering your questions.

**00:21:53** *That's Ok. Do you remember any media stories on domestic violence that were in the news during your time at Women's Aid or around that time?*

Um, goodness me ... Oh well, every few years everything about refuges for men, that was regular...

Ok.

Um, now when did the *Brookside* storyline hit the press? I cannot remember. I think that was ... there were several storylines in soaps and things like that and, of course, um, my colleague **[name anonymised]** was involved in developing a TV campaign on domestic abuse...

Ok.

for Scottish Government so that was fascinating that she was actually there and she was involved in it, you know, she was on the side of the set. That was amazing, that was a big one, a very big one, yeah, and I think the research showed it did change attitudes because it's modelled, you know, on the drink driving the anti-drink driving campaign that you can shift public attitudes and I think it did shift public attitudes by a few percentage which was regarded as very successful. So, I wish there were more of those.

*And did you use any of those media stories in...*

Oh, all the time, yeah, all the time, very useful to back it up, it's not just us, it's the Scottish Government, yeah, and, as I say, it really depended on civil servants a lot. So, if you had a good group ... but they would shift all the time and the government, the mandarins had a lot of power at the end of each financial year. Just before the end the Scottish Government guy or person or woman would phone us up and say, 'Oh, we've got some slippage, we could give you a few thousand or something if you put in a bid' so, you know, [laughs]. Or they'd offer us some old box files or something [laughs]. It was quite sweet really, the crumbs from the table [laughs].

**00:24:02** *Um, can you describe any, maybe, significant turning points or any times of change and that could be externally in society or in the work in Women's Aid?*

Well, I think the Zero Tolerance campaign was quite a turning point, yeah. And, of course, in Edinburgh there was the Women's Committee which was very active for a few years so when that closed down we noticed a significant change, certainly, in the climate in Edinburgh.

*Ok.*

It was huge and, of course, there's no such thing as a Women's Committee anywhere that I know of and the equalities work in the local authorities I know from my present job has been totally diluted to the detriment particularly, I would say, of women. Yeah, so, yeah, the Zero Tolerance campaign was a biggy, a biggy, a big support.

*Ok, do you want to say a little bit more about that?*

Oh.

*About the Zero Tolerance campaign?*

Ok, yeah, I will. Um, I was involved in the Edinburgh one and then it ... There was a Glasgow one and some other local authorities and then when I was at City of Edinburgh Council I was very lucky to be invited to Munich for the tenth anniversary of their version of Zero Tolerance. So, it was basically a media campaign. So, we had placards right down Princes St with statements, you know, all sorts of things challenging myths and there were also workshops and, as I say, the training pack that we designed for Zero Tolerance Strathclyde. There were all sorts of initiatives to try challenge myths and it was very powerful because for the first time you actually saw that in the public arena. Um, I know Zero Tolerance is still going in a small way and I do ... They're doing a lot of valuable work but they don't have very many resources so it was the fact that there was a Women's Committee supporting it centrally they were able to get that access and I don't know if that will happen again, which is a shame but that was a huge thing. I don't know if you've read anything else about the Zero Tolerance campaign?

*Not, not historically.*

It was taken up by quite a few different countries ... in Munich, and it's still happening in Munich so it's quite a shame that, in a way, when I went to Munich, that was in 2004, something, 2003 I think, um, they had their tenth anniversary and there was nothing here really except a small charity that is desperately trying to carry on the work with very few resources and they were having their media campaign and they were having marches ... We used to have an annual women's march, you know, the 16 Days, I don't think that happens anymore so ... There's a lot still to come back, maybe, which would happen as well.

**00:26:58** *Ok. Um, and what about the changes in Scottish politics in recent years? Do you think this has had any impact on the work of Women's Aid or how domestic abuse is spoken about?*

It's interesting. Um, Nicola Sturgeon, long, long, long before she was of any prominence, I think she was still working in the Gorbals ... I organised ... Um, because there was some European action on violence against women, the Vienna Declaration, I organised an event for the MEPs and politicians

and she was virtually the only person who came. This was back in the day. It was very interesting, I think. Um, so I think maybe her heart's in the right place but I don't think it's a popular issue in society for her to be seen ... She has to pretend to be a bit like a man to survive...

*Ok.*

...in that environment, dog-eat-dog, but I think, I think she's trying a little bit behind the scenes but it does affect a list of things, but things are very slow to change but I have hopes that maybe things will get better. I know that she was trying to do quite a lot about child poverty and, obviously, that has a huge positive impact on women if, you know, there are better resources for children. Obviously, one of the demands of the feminist movement is access to childcare, free childcare and so important nowadays even, you know, there just isn't enough and that limits everything for women who have children, yeah. So, yeah, so, the political climate always ... I mean, there were some very positive links in terms of the labour movement, always, and the trade union movement, yeah, so, which still exist I think, yeah. Yeah, I know we used to ... We were always like ... We all were members of the GMB which is now part of Unite. I'm still very involved with Unite. I'm one of the equalities reps so we always supported and we were supported by the unions. A lot of the unions had very good materials on domestic abuse, still now, and they're updating them and some of them were trailblazers so there's that strong connection with the labour movement. I think on one of my first days at Women's Aid I was at a march in Falkirk because they were threatening to close the refuges and, obviously, that was very much supported by the union banners so there's always been that close connection, it sort of goes right way back to the civil rights movement and the whole history or herstory of the movement, yeah.

**00:29:50** *Ok. What do you think the impact of Women's Aid was on society in general, but also maybe on you personally?*

Well, the fact that there was a safe place for women to go impacted hugely on every woman's life indirectly even if they didn't use it. It's a whole thing, like because there's a place to go if an abuser says, 'Oh, well, what will you do? You have to stay here', you say, 'No, I've got somewhere to go'. So, it's just like the whole thing about the threat of rape, you know. This powerful maybe controls our movements after dark even though it's only going to happen to a maj- ... minority of women. So, it's

that safe part, it's having that possibility of a safe space that's impacted on every woman directly. Most people don't even realise that it might have an impact until they need it so, yeah, I think the refuge movement has had a huge impact on women and their children, obviously, because the tremendous work that's being done with children, um, the pioneering work in lots of ways, I think, in Scotland with women and with children. Things like specialist refuges and stuff like that, um, and the strong links, well, we, certainly, in Edinburgh, and strong links with the residential facility for women with alcohol, who were using alcohol or drugs. It was, you know, the survival mechanisms of women and to see the underlying things and not to have that women blaming, oh bad women, bad mother, all that stuff. So, there's still a huge need because the facility in Edinburgh is closed now, the one that was actually run by Aberlour Trust and it was for women with their children and I believe now women have to go to Newcastle or something to stay with their children, so the children are taken away while they're in recovery and that's just so devastating for the women. So, it's ... So, we need, I think, nowadays, we need more facilities to support women with, with their children and to keep ... Because that can be a huge motivator for women to recover and it's not there.

And that's why refuges are so important, because women and children, children are valued, you know, they can experience another way and just have a break even. Because I saw lots of women who had a break and then they went back, had a break and went back and I saw what that did, both for women and children, because, obviously, as you know leaving is a process, it's not an event. It's a long process and usually by the time the woman is strong enough to move everyone's given up on her except Women's Aid. Because I don't think it's realised, even now, that leaving is a process not a one-off event and that's something we always tried to enable organisations to understand because they had a professional frustration that we had to teach them to deal with, just as they did in other ... Yeah, like there would be a myth, say, in housing, 'Oh, she's just using this to get a house' or something like that and there are lots, uh, so many myths around and you had to try and persuade them otherwise. It was very much about persuasion and being sensitive to where they were at that time because Women's Aid were seen as some sort of strange group sometimes, you know, far out [laughs]. They'd look at you as though you were some sort of alien creatures. The police used to joke we always came in pairs for our own protection but we quite often didn't because we didn't have enough women. So, you were regarded ... They wanted to test you ... You were on display ... It's interesting.

**00:34:05** *And you spoke a little bit about your work with other Women's Aid groups, do you want to say a little bit more about that?*

Mm, well, we had a training policy development group which covered the whole of Scotland, so as many women as possible participated in that and that's where we made the policy, all the stuff about training, revamping all our materials, developing our training programmes for groups. New groups who were just about to affiliate, we went through a training programme with them, usually go there and do it, you know, in sessions like that. So, yeah, it was all developed by the local women from local groups who ... To keep it alive and everything like that so that was a huge contribution which, obviously, was not resourced, because there's always a tension because the development work won't be resourced. The only reason Women's Aid originally got money [was] because, obviously, they provide accommodation cheaply for a group the government wasn't particularly interested in it's like, 'Oh well, you know, you get some cheap provision, we'll do that and children will be protected a bit. Don't worry about the women but the children will be protected'. So, it's not about, you know, women's autonomy [laughs], stuff like that. So, it's always about trying to get the materials that would persuade and convince and not selling your soul but trying to see how you could best persuade and I know that **[name anonymised]** uses some experiential techniques in her training now which is quite interesting. I don't know if you know about any of those...

*Yeah, she did a bit of training for the volunteers so, yeah.*

Good, did she do the balloon?

**00:35:56** *Yeah. So, was that quite a positive relationship between your role or your colleagues and other Women's Aid groups?*

Oh generally, yeah, oh, absolutely. It was very interesting to see because there's often tension between what's seen as the, sort of, central group and local groups because the local groups are saying, 'Oh, you're just sitting there doing nothing'. So, it was ... I suppose that's normal though, that is absolutely normal for any organisation. So, you always you lived with that and, generally, we had some women who were very committed to the training and put in many, many hours, meetings, would go around the country, you know, and yeah. Because, you know, the whole thing about Zero

Tolerance was the three Ps. Do you know about the three Ps? Prevention, protection and provision. So, you probably know about how problematic it is to prove prevention. It doesn't mean it shouldn't be done, and, certainly, in some parts of, say, local authorities some aspects of prevention are seen as a good that are automatically funded. For example, teaching children how to cross the road. You can't prove how many children are not killed but you still fund it because it's seen as a social good. Domestic abuse prevention is not yet seen as a social good, as an essential. Maybe one day it will.

**00:37:41** *So, what do you think the future holds and what would you like to see happen?*

Well, obviously, we're working towards ending all forms of abuse of women, um ... And it's a fine line balancing the prevention, protection and provision because, it seems to me, what's always been the way [is] that provision is tangible and you can fund that because it's extra housing and stuff like that but the prevention is very important, just as important if not more because you want to work upstream, you know, that you have to try and work upstream, you have to do just as much prevention, I think, otherwise you're just putting a sticking plaster on the whole issue. Um, **[name anonymised]**, have you heard of her?

No.

She's one of the key British ... Um, she's a prof-, she used to be a professor at the University of East London, a fantastic ... She's an amazing theorist and I did some training with her years ago in London and she's just one of the key figures in terms of theories about all forms of violence against women and she said, yeah, just putting a sticking plaster is not enough and, yeah, it's true because you have to eradicate all forms of inequality against women in order to eradicate this particular aspect and it's all interconnected, you cannot separate any aspect, so ... I suppose my dream is that all forms of violence against women are eradicated, yeah.

*So, that's all of the questions I have but I wonder if there's anything else that we've not really talked about that you might like to chat about...?*

**[Section removed at request of interviewee].**

I think the tension, purity versus pragmatism, will always exist. Um, you know, in fact, that illustrates what I said, the protection versus provision. Um, the pragmatism is the local authorities funding the

bricks and mortar but not funding the just equally, if not more, well, equally important work of prevention. **[Section removed at request of interviewee]** To me it seems like shifting sands, things go forward a bit then they go backwards. It's a dynamic, just like the dynamic of when the issue or so called new issue ... the rediscovery of the issue of violence against men and men's refuges. So, it is changing sands but, um, I think Women's Aid in Scotland has done a huge lot over the years and I think it's doing really, really well at the moment. It's brilliant so ... If you've got any other questions then get back to me.

*Ok, well, thank you very much.*

Yeah, no, thank you for your time.

**End interview**