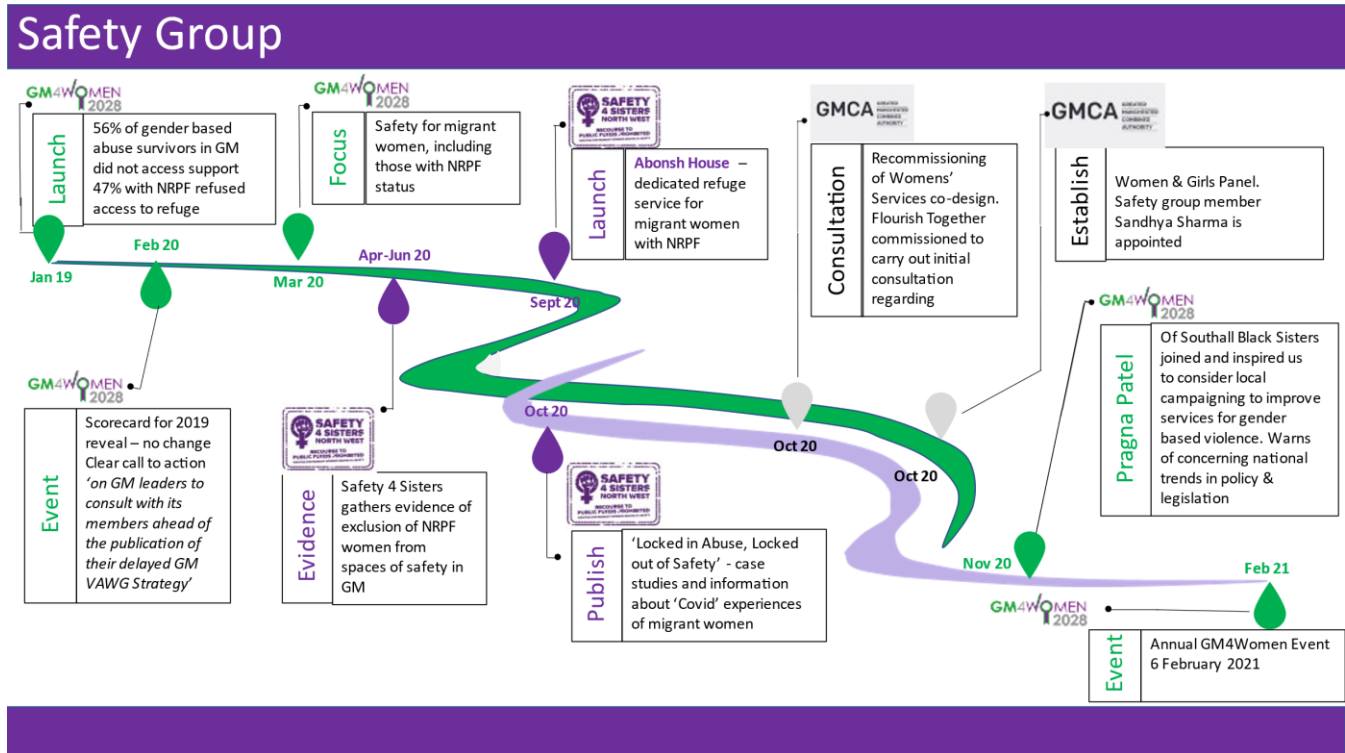


# GM4WOMEN2028: SAFETY GROUP BRIEF

The Safety Group aims to draw on and extend the power of women’s voices to shape action and improvements in responses to women who face, resist and survive violence and harm.

The image below reflects the journey so far of the Safety Group. In the last 12 months we have grown in membership and through dialogue collectively agreed a focus to our shared work in the medium term – challenging the exclusion of migrant women and those with ‘no recourse to public funds’ (NRPF condition) from access to safety.

Our shared knowledge and local evidence all tells us that the situation for women’s safety in the context of the COVID19 pandemic is worsening. The pandemic has affected a range of services valued by women experiencing of sexual violence, highlighted in local research (VOSGM, 2018). The ability for migrant women to access safety through refuge support has worsened (S4S, 2020).



Key sources of info used in the Safety Group Journey So Far:

- <https://www.gm4women2028.org/>
- <https://www.gm4women2028.org/scorecards>
- <https://www.safety4sisters.org/blog/2020/9/3/launch-of-abonsh-house-dedicated-refuge-service-for-single-migrant-women-with-no-recourse-to-public-funds>
- <https://www.safety4sisters.org/blog/2020/10/19/locked-in-abuse-locked-out-of-safety-the-pandemic-experiences-of-migrant-women>



The two existing 'Safety' measures on the GM4Women2028 scorecard are captured below:<sup>1</sup>

- Indicator 1:
  - 2019 - 56% of female survivors of gender sexual-based violence in GM did not access support in relation to what happened to them.
  - 2020 – No new data, assume reduced access to effective responses and support during COVID
- Indicator 2:
  - 2019 - 47% of women survivors with no recourse to public funds have been refused access to a refuge because of their immigration status.
  - 2020 – 100% of the women referred to us and who wanted a refuge space were initially refused one due to the 'No recourse to public funds' (NRPF) condition.

### Safety Group Calls to Action:

- ✓ We call for the immediate suspension of the NRPF condition during the pandemic, with the commitment of local leaders to ensure the permanent abolition of this exclusionary and harmful policy.
- ✓ We call for a local violence against women and girls strategy – covering both domestic abuse and sexual violence – that ensures the funding of inclusive and integrated services that support the safety of ALL women and girls irrespective of immigration status.

---

1

VOSGM (2018) Voices of Survivors. <http://vosgm.org.uk/>

Safety for Sisters (2016) Migrant Women's Rights to Safety Pilot Project. <https://www.safety4sisters.org/about>

Safety for Sisters (2020) Locked in Abuse, Locked Out of Safety. <https://www.safety4sisters.org/blog/2020/10/19/locked-in-abuse-locked-out-of-safety-the-pandemic-experiences-of-migrant-women>



**Join the Safety group to discuss these points further, contact [GM4Women2028@gmail.com](mailto:GM4Women2028@gmail.com)**

**GM4WOMEN  
2028**

[www.gm4women2028.org](http://www.gm4women2028.org)

@GM4Women2028