

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



RESEARCH PUBLISHED

Roots to Change facilitated a study into what is contributing to high levels of violence directed at women and girls in Wandsworth and importantly, what could be done about it.

150 people with close ties to the borough participated in the study through an online survey, focus group discussions and workshops.

The study was part funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, the Greater London Authority, and Battersea Power Station Foundation.

The report was published in March 2023 and can be found [here](#).

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS COMMUNITY FORUM

Roots to Change was invited to join the Violence Against Women and Girls Community Forum, set up by Richmond and Wandsworth Councils in December 2022.

We had the opportunity to present our research findings to members of the forum at the June 2023 meeting.

We also presented our findings to the SW15 Women's Network in Roehampton in May 2023.



THE BIG RESHAPE PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

In the latter part of 2023, we launched The Big Reshape that aims to influence positive change towards building a fairer borough where women and girls can live free from harm.

It was designed in response to findings from the research that pointed to the need for a reshape in how we address this issue.

A fundamental reshape in... our understanding of the issue, how we talk about it, the norms that condone it and the systems that support it, our ideas and expectations, how people of all genders are portrayed in the media, and relationships between people.



The
Big
Reshape
towards equality

THE BIG RESHAPE ART INSTALLATIONS

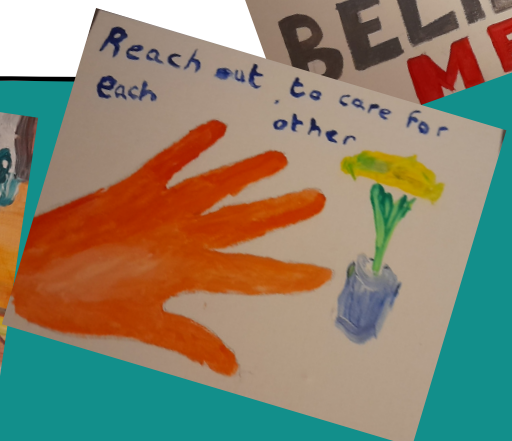
As part of The Big Reshape, Roots to Change and Seduced by Art are conducting a series of art workshops that bring together people with close ties to Wandsworth and surrounding boroughs and invite them to paint their vision of a more equal borough where women and girls can live free from harm.

The artwork from these sessions is being displayed across the borough, together with reflections from some of the artists, highlights from the research and some suggestions on what we could all do individually and collectively to help address this issue.

We are using these exhibition spaces as the backdrop of various wrap-around events. For example, Sahar Beg, Founder of Mindworks UK facilitated a fantastic Theatre with Therapy workshop in October in Roehampton Library.

Installations to date include:

- 17 Jul to 6 Sep '23 - Suzette's Café, Battersea
- 9 to 28 Oct '23 - Roehampton Library
- 20 Nov to 12 Dec '23 - Battersea Library



16 DAYS OF ACTION 25 NOV TO 10 DEC

25th November is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls. It is also the start of 16 days of action which runs until International Human Rights Day on 10 December that marks the day in 1948 that the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights- 30 rights and freedoms that belong to all of us and that no one can take away from us.

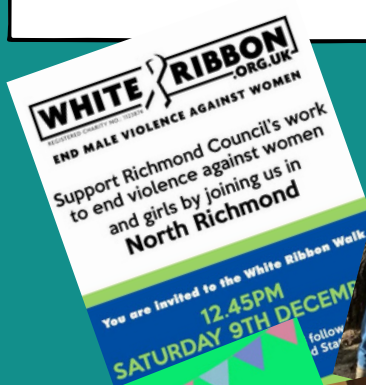
Violence directed at women and girls is a serious human rights issue.

During these busy 16 days, Roots to Change ran a campaign on social media to raise awareness and get the discussion going. Our art exhibition was also up in Battersea Library over this period. The open evening gave people a chance to see the art work, grab a snack and have a chat.

We also facilitated an interesting discussion with a brilliant panel of experts (Janaiya Hanson (Participant, Carney's Community), Joss Cambridge-Simmons (Jossy Care), George Turner (Carney's Community), Sarah Turner (Intercultural Psychotherapist) and Cllr. Kate Stock (Cabinet Lead for Children at WBC)). The discussion was around how we best support children and young people to develop positive personal identities not constrained by what society expects.

On 8 December, Roots to Change was invited to co-facilitate a discussion at an energising youth event put on by Strength of a Woman and Seduced by Art, together with the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit. The next day, we felt honoured to speak at the White Ribbon walk, led by Richmond Council, alongside the Leader of the Council, Gareth Roberts, Cllr. Fiona Sacks and MP Sarah Olney.

To end, we put on a little community event that involved a lot of singing, laughing and a raffle with some great prizes! The raffle raised some funds for Roots to Change and gave us a great chance to promote local, independent businesses in Battersea. More of this to come!



FACILITATION AT MET POLICE EVENTS

Roots to Change has been supporting the South West Basic Command Unit of the Metropolitan Police by facilitating a series of community events where they have been introducing their New Met Plan for London as well as their new plan to tackle violence against women and girls that acknowledges the desperate need to address their harmful internal culture.

We independently facilitated one in Balham/ Tooting (borough of Wandsworth) in October and a second one in Twickenham (borough of Richmond) in November.

PROJECT AND STRATEGY SUPPORT

Roots to Change has been providing project and strategy support to a number of charities and social sector organisations across London including but not limited to Battersea Crime Prevention Panel and their partners, and Big Local Hanwell through Local Trust.

ABOUT ROOTS TO CHANGE CIC

Roots to Change is a community interest company based in Battersea with over 20 years of experience in both the private and social sectors.

We facilitate community-led programmes like The Big Reshape and the research study that informed it.

We also support other organisations with their work, whether that is with research, strategy development, project and event management, training and capacity building, facilitation and engagement and/or evaluations and reviews.

A portion of the income generated through this work is put towards funding activities of The Big Reshape and other community-led programmes.

Get in touch to discuss how we might collaborate and/or how you may support our work.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR COLLABORATORS!

Roots to Change would like to thank all individuals and organisations who have supported our work in various ways during the past year.

This includes all individuals who participated in the research, whether by filling in an online survey or participating in a focus group discussion and/ or workshop. We would also like to thank all individuals and organisations who shared information with their networks and helped encourage the participation of different groups of people.

Additionally, we would also like to thank everyone who has supported The Big Reshape programme so far, whether that has been contributing time and/or venue space, contributing to the crowdfunding appeal in the summer or a prize to the raffle, buying a raffle ticket, co-facilitating workshops or other events, participating in a panel discussion and/or in so many other ways!

We look forward to working with you in the coming year!

* UPCOMING ROOTS TO CHANGE EVENTS *

January/ February '24

- **Art Workshop** - 20 Jan, 1-4pm, Balham Library
- **Art Installation** - 29 Jan to 17 Feb, Balham Library
- **Opening Evening** - 1 Feb, 5-7pm, Balham Library
- **Live Karma Yoga Workshop** - 3 Feb, 2-5pm, Balham Library
- **Panel Discussion** - 8 Feb, 6-7.30pm, Balham Library

March '24

- **Roots to Change turns TWO Reception!** - 1 Mar, 7-9pm, Suzette Café
- **Art Workshop** - 16 Mar, 1-4pm, Tooting Library

April/ May '24

- **Art Installation** - 8 Apr to 5 May, Tooting Library
- **Opening Evening** - 11 Apr, 5-7pm, Tooting Library

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to sign up

June '24 onwards...

- **Art Installation** - 3 to 29 Jun, Battersea Arts Centre
- **Art Installation** - 31 Aug to 28 Sep, Northcote Library
- **Art Installation** - 3 to 30 Nov, Putney Library

