

National Women's Justice Coalition publishes its first impact report, evidencing four years of collective influence

The National Women's Justice Coalition (NWJC) is proud to publish its first impact report *Stronger Together – Four Years of the National Women's Justice Coalition*, marking a major milestone in the coalition's work to transform outcomes for women and girls affected by the criminal justice system.

Formed in 2021, the NWJC has grown from five founding women's organisations to a national coalition of 26 partners, more than one-third of which are small, specialist, by/for led organisations. The report captures the coalition's progress in strengthening the visibility, legitimacy and influence of women's organisations during a period of significant social and economic pressure.

Key achievements highlighted in the report include:

- **Influencing major national policy reforms**, including contributing to the establishment of the Women's Justice Board (2024), shaping the Independent Sentencing Review (2025), and securing the removal of Clause 35 from the Sentencing Bill (2026).
- **Reinforcing the case for sustainable investment in the women's sector** by publishing new data evidencing the funding cliff edge faced by specialist organisations.
- **Launching the UK's first Women's Services Map**, a trusted national directory featuring more than 100 women's centres and over 420 specialist services, widely used by practitioners, commissioners, funders and women seeking support.
- **Strengthening the national evidence base** through the NWJC's Resource Library of consolidated sector data, and high-impact research, briefings and peer-reviewed publications.
- **Championing lived experience leadership** by establishing the National Voice & Advisory Panel (NVAP) to embed experts by experience at the heart of national influencing and policymaking.
- **Centring anti-racist practice** through coalition-wide training, dedicated steering groups and targeted support for small, specialist by/for led organisations to better understand and address systemic inequalities.
- **Securing over £0.5m in funding** to support the coalition's core costs and activities and ensure its sustainability and future development.

A powerful national voice for specialist women's services

The report demonstrates the NWJC's growing authority across the women's and justice sectors. Through coordinated advocacy, shared intelligence and strategic engagement with senior stakeholders, the coalition has become a recognised and respected voice on what works for women affected by the criminal justice system.

Collectively, the NWJC has welcomed the newly published Women's Justice Board report, along with the Ministry of Justice's commitment to invest £31.6m to enable women's centres and charities to deliver vital specialist support to women. This signals a growing national recognition of the evidence and public messaging the NWJC has amplified – women's centres work.

Supporting the publication of the coalition's report, Abbi Ayers, Director of Strategic Development for the NWJC, said:

"This report demonstrates the impact that is possible when specialist women's organisations come together behind a shared mission. Our coalition has shown that collective strength, feminist leadership and credible evidence can effectively shift policy, influence commissioning and elevate lived experience expertise at a national level."

Looking ahead: a roadmap for change

Stronger Together – Four Years of the National Women's Justice Coalition concludes by outlining the strategic role the NWJC has to play in the wider ecosystem, summarising the coalition's priorities for the next phase of its work, which include:

- Growing the NWJC with purpose by onboarding more small, specialist women's organisations to increase representation in national influencing spaces.
- Securing long-term, sustainable investment for women's organisations delivering holistic, gender-responsive, trauma-informed services.
- Strengthening understanding of the Women's Centre Model among commissioners, policymakers and the public.
- Embedding lived experience leadership to ensure women with lived experience can influence national policy and practice at the highest levels.
- Deepening the coalition's impact through stronger relationships with government, parliamentarians and senior decision-makers, and advancing evidence-based solutions for a fairer justice system for women and girls.

A call to action

The NWJC invites policymakers, commissioners, funders and allies to engage with the report's findings and join the coalition in driving forward systemic change. The full report is available to download from the NWJC website.

ENDS

For any queries, questions or for further information about the NWJC, please email info@weareNWJC.org.uk