

MAYOR OF LONDON

Zoë Garbett AM

zoe.garbett@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA200625-8393

Date: 20 February 2026

Dear Zoë,

Thank you for highlighting your concerns about the future funding for the London Holistic Advocacy Wrap Around Service (LHAWAS). I apologise for the delay in responding.

The progress and impact of this project have been impressive, and I am pleased that the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) has been able to support its continuation well beyond the initial two-year commissioning period.

As you may be aware, Southall Black Sisters (SBS) were originally awarded funding for a two-year programme from 2019/20 to 2021/22, and MOPAC had since then extended the grant for a number of years, up until 30 September 2025. This was in recognition of the value of the programme and the lack of alternative support available at that time for victims-survivors with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

While LHAWAS was a unique programme at the time of commissioning, MOPAC has since awarded 13 grants to partnerships – including by and for organisations specialising in support for migrant survivors – and funded an additional 32 projects assisting survivors with NRPF through the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (DASA) programme. This demonstrates our ongoing commitment to this cohort.

Reductions in Ministry of Justice funding in 2025/26 have increased the budget pressures facing victim support services in London. In light of this and given that alternative provision for victims with NRPF is now available through the DASA programme, MOPAC took the difficult decision not to offer a further extension to LHAWAS beyond the end of their grant agreement.

Since then, I am pleased to say that MOPAC has supported SBS in obtaining a further £3m grant, ensuring they can continue to provide support to victims with NRPF in London. The Greater London Authority and MOPAC are also in the process of finalising grant awards for the DASA 'by and for' grants fund and will be able to announce the details of grant awards for that fund later this year.

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I remain committed to ensuring that all survivors, including those with insecure or unknown immigration status, can access safety and support. We continue to work with the Metropolitan Police Service to improve operational practice and lobby the Government for legislative changes to establish a 'firewall' for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls – an essential step in removing barriers for those with NRPF.

If you would like more information about services available for this client group, please contact VAWG@mopac.london.gov.uk.

Thank you again for your engagement and support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small number '2' written below the name.

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London