



EWRASAC TIMELINE: 35 years of rape crisis services in Edinburgh

Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre (ERCC) was established as a collective in 1978. It was set-up by women, who wanted to provide a safe and confidential space for women who had been raped. The shared understanding was that rape and sexual abuse are an abuse of power and ERCC would work to change attitudes as well as providing support.

The ways of working established by the first collective provide the framework for work 35 years on: the helpline is on varied hours each week; face-to-face support sessions; refusal to use the word victim; working towards changing attitudes in society towards rape; and the same helpline number 0131 556 9437.

Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre

- 1 July ERCC opens with a vigil on Princes Street with extensive coverage in East coast press on TV and radio.
- 10 calls to the helpline from women.
- Helpline runs 13 hours a week.
- 34 calls to the helpline from women.
- Trainings and talks delivered across Edinburgh to range of organisations including universities, colleges, the Samaritans and Women's Aid.
- First annual report published.
- 37 calls to the helpline from women.
- Begin giving talks to Lothian and Borders police.
- One quarter of calls to the helpline are adults who have been sexually abused as children by their family. This leads to development of Incest Survivors' Group in Edinburgh.
- 49 calls to the helpline from women.
- 83 calls to the helpline from women.
- Incest Survivors' helpline for women starts. This helps to increase awareness within rape crisis centres of the prevalence of sexual violence in the family.
- 100 calls to the helpline from women.
- 169 calls to the helpline from women.
- Received first ever grant from Lothian Regional Social Work Committee towards running costs. Previous 9 years ERCC relied solely on donations and fundraising.
- Runs first self-help group for rape survivors.
- 211 calls to helpline from women.

National and international

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| 1978 | |
| 1979 | 4 May Margaret Thatcher is elected Britain's first woman Prime Minister. |
| 1980 | |
| 1981 | National campaign begins against using women's past sexual history as evidence during trials. |
| 1982 | Scottish rape crisis centres attempt to get a Private Member's Bill to restrict sexual history evidence questioning. However, this is unsuccessful. |
| 1983 | Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value Amendment for the Equal Pay Act. |
| 1984 | |
| 1985 | 86 rape crisis centres in UK. |
| 1986 | Act introduced to prevent a woman's past sexual history as evidence. However, 'exceptions' can be made at Judges' discretion.

Scottish Law Lords rule for the first time that sexual harassment is sex discrimination and can be challenged under the law. |
| 1987 | 241 rapes reported in Scotland, 64 led to prosecutions and 34 in convictions.

Conviction rate in Scotland is 14% % |

Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre

- Second annual report produced for celebration of 10th anniversary.
- In first 10 years ERCC supported over 1,000 women.
- Helpline runs 15 hours a week on a rota basis by volunteers.
- Support offered includes face-to-face, long-term support and accompanying women to appointments.
- Helpline closed for 5 weeks as building works took place. Face to face and letter support continued.
- 272 calls to the helpline by women.
- 227 calls to the helpline by women.
- 141 calls to the helpline by women.
- For first time in 14 years of relying entirely on voluntary workers, a grant is secured to employ a full time worker.
- 269 calls to the helpline by women.
- Volunteer numbers fluctuate - helpline hours cannot be sustained. Hours reduced from 15 - 6 hours.
- Incest Survivors' line closes.
- Urban Aid funding to expand into outreach work.
- Third annual report produced to celebrate 15th anniversary.
- Moved premises to basement in Broughton Street Lane.
- Over 2,000 women supported in first 15 years.
- Restructuring of support service as long-term waiting list has built up, so number of sessions is reduced.
- 2 full time workers for new outreach service.
- 18 volunteers.
- Average of 26 new women contacting centre a month.
- Average 20 face-to-face a week.
- New logo and publicity materials, including bookmark and fundraising materials.
- Outreach work in: Wester Hailes, Oxgangs, North Leith, Gracemount, Burdiehouse, Moredunvale and Southouse.
- A confidential workers helpline opens in June.
- Face-to-face sessions and training provided for workers
- Moved premises from Broughton Street Lane to 1 Leopold Place, to accommodate growth in volunteers and women being supported.
- Ritual abuse resource pack produced by ERCC and Dundee rape crisis centre.
- Development and growth of external training and talks to raise awareness and profile of ERCC.

National and international

1988

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Rape within marriage is recognised as a crime in Scotland.

First Zero Tolerance campaign to raise awareness of domestic violence is launched by the Women's Committee of Edinburgh District Council. It is taken up by local authorities across the UK.

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women is adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Around 20% of female population was raped during the 1994 Rwanda genocide as part of a deliberate military strategy.

Scottish Rape Crisis Network run a TV advertisement over Christmas and New Year.

Scottish Parliament established. 570 rapes reported in Scotland, 65 led to prosecutions and 29 in convictions. Conviction rate in Scotland is 5%.

Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre / EWRASAC

- Became involved with the Women Support Project, Pilton, and develop training package.
- 1 paid worker in post. Work on applying for funding applications for other positions undertaken.
- Changed name to Edinburgh Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre with the aim of more accurately reflecting the work of the organisation in supporting women and girls who have experienced any kind of sexual violence.
- Branch out into West Edinburgh with a dedicated worker who had an office in West Pilton and offered support there.
- 25th anniversary held at Edinburgh City Chambers.
- 785 women call the helpline for support, of which 288 had not been in contact before.
- EWRASAC faced closure, only 4 volunteers run centre.
- Long-term waiting list is at 1 year and is frozen. Helpline covered a minimum of 3 days a week.
- Funding secured for 3 new paid posts and restructuring took place. Continued funding received from City of Edinburgh Council.
- April - September support line open 222 hours.
- 22 face to face sessions.
- 3 new paid worker positions: Centre Coordinator, Support Service Coordinator and Information Development Worker.
- New volunteer trainings.
- Transition from collective to management structure with a Centre Coordinator and Board of Directors. Registered as a charitable company limited guarantee.
- New logo and rebranding.

National and international

1998	
1999	<p>Violence against women becomes a policy priority of the Scottish Parliament.</p> <p>UN General Assembly designate 25th November as International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.</p>
2000	Cross Party Group on Survivors of Sexual Abuse established.
2001	<p>589 rapes reported in Scotland, 61 led to prosecutions and 36 in convictions.</p> <p>Conviction rate in Scotland is 5%.</p> <p>First parliamentary debate on child sexual abuse.</p>
2002	<p>743 reports of rape in Scotland.</p> <p>The Sexual Offences (Procedures and Evidence) (Scotland) Act 2002 prohibits the accused in sexual offences trials from conducting his own defence and tightens the restrictions regarding the use of sexual history and character evidence.</p> <p>Scottish Rape Crisis Network funded by Scottish Executive to set up national office.</p>
2003	<p>87 rapes are reported to the police in Edinburgh.</p> <p>Review of the investigation and prosecution of rape in Scotland is undertaken by COPFS.</p>
2004	Scottish Executive establishes a 'Rape Crisis Specific Fund' in recognition of historical underfunding of Rape Crisis Centres.
2005	Amnesty International commission a survey on attitudes to rape. Results show that 30% believe a women is partially or totally responsible to blame if she is drunk and 22% believe she is partially or totally to blame if she had many sexual partners.

Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre / EWRASAC

- Funding received from City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Executive's Violence Against Women Fund and Rape Crisis Specific Fund, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland and The Robertson Trust.
- Helpline open an average of 5 days a week. 568 hours of helpline support provided 2005-2006. 2,226 women, 514 agencies and 116 family friends and partners contact the helpline.
- 108 face-to-face appointments offered. 18 women offered long-term.
- Truth about rape postcard campaign for young women. New leaflets and women's support pack produced. Approx 2,000 leaflets requested by women survivors and agencies.
- Big Lottery Fund and LankellyChase Foundation funding secured for Support Worker, Advocacy Worker, Assistant Centre Coordinator and Training Worker posts.
- Begin training calendar for external workers. 20 training events delivered.
- 2007-2008 53 women offered long-term support.
- 156 face-to-face appointments.
- Over 3,000 calls to helpline January - October.
- Helpline on a minimum of 25 hours a week.
- Long term waiting list down to couple of months.
- Ongoing funding secured for posts for next 3 years. Now 9 paid staff member posts.
- 2007-2008 approx 3,000 leaflets and support packs requested.
- Funding secured from Scottish Community Foundation Women's Fund for Scotland, for a website, support pack for women and young women's information materials.
- Free complementary therapies service.
- New Advocacy Worker in post and project.
- New East Lothian outreach post and project established (ELSAS) funded by Scottish Government Sexual Abuse Development Fund.
- New Assistant Centre-coordinator and Training Development Worker in post.
- Support services extended to male family, friends and partners and all members of the transgender community.

National and international

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| 2006 | <p>Scottish Executive agrees funding for a pilot Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Glasgow, the first in Scotland.</p> <p>The Scottish Law Commission issues a consultation on their proposals for reform to the law on rape and sexual assault.</p> <p>2006-2006 975 crimes of rape recorded by the police, of which 38 resulted in convictions.</p> |
| 2007 | <p>32 rape crisis centres in UK, 9 of which are in Scotland.</p> <p>Scottish Law Commission publishes recommendations on law reform & draft Bill reform of the law on rape and sexual offences in Scotland.</p> <p>Rape Crisis Scotland national helpline launched.</p> |
| 2008 | <p>Scottish rape conviction rate at all time low of 2.9%</p> <p>Rape Crisis Scotland, This is not an invitation to help me campaign launched.</p> |

EWRASAC

- New dedicated service in East Lothian, East Lothian Sexual Abuse Service (ELSAS).
- New partnership with Edinburgh and Lothian Council on Alcohol.
- Began offering person-centred counselling and psychodynamic counselling.
- EWASAC's website is launched.
- One of 35 charities shortlisted in Guardian Charity of the Year Awards.
- Volunteer team awarded Inspiring Volunteer Award by the Edinburgh Volunteer Centre.
- Launched the STAR Project for girls and young women aged 12-18 who have experienced rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual bullying.
- Launched personal safety seminars.
- New Your Voice is Free therapeutic drama project in East Lothian
- Regular multi-agency training delivered to Lothian and Borders Police, Scottish Women's Aid, Lothian Violence Against Women Training Consortium and NHS Lothian
- "Rape Is" postcard and beer-mat campaign with Lothian and Borders Police and Rape Crisis Scotland over the festive period.
- 30 volunteers, 13 paid members of staff.
- Secured an additional years funding from the Scottish Government's VAW Fund.
- 8 different leaflets on sexual violence and its effects are translated into 8 different community languages.
- Begin offering art therapy.
- Development of a bespoke Outcome Evaluation Toolkit for rape crisis services in partnership with Rape Crisis Scotland.
- International Women's Day- launch of joint exhibition with Edinburgh Women's Aid and Shakti Women's Aid of survivor art, poetry and writing.
- 372 women, girls and family, friends and partners received support.
- 1,169.5 hours of helpline support and received 2,724 calls to our helpline.
- Offered 1,824 face-to-face sessions.
- ELSAS- delivered 175 sessions and supported 24 women, 3 family members, friends and partners.
- STAR- delivered 89 face-to-face sessions and supported 15 young women survivors.
- Your Voice is Free - two 20 week groups for 15 women.

National and international

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| 2009 | 54 convictions of rape in Scotland. |
| 2010 | <p>The Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 was implemented in December 2010. The Act reforms the law on sexual offences, and broadens the definition of rape to include male rape for the first time.</p> <p>Rape Crisis Scotland launched a major TV advertising campaign - Not Ever - in June 2010.</p> <p>3% conviction rate for rape in Scotland.</p> |
| 2011 | <p>Lord Carloway published a report from his review of key elements of Scottish criminal law and practice, recommending that the requirement for corroboration be abolished. Rape Crisis Scotland supports this recommendation - corroboration has a significant impact in limiting the number of sexual offences which can be prosecuted; due to the nature of sexual offences - which often take place in private - corroboration can be very difficult to obtain.</p> <p>Rape Crisis Scotland and Rape Crisis England and Wales work in partnership on the development of Rape Crisis National Service Standards (RCNSS).</p> |

EWRASAC

- New outreach counselling service in Midlothian. In first year 94 counselling sessions were delivered to 12 survivors.
 - EWASAC and STAR facebook pages set up.
 - Investing in Volunteers Award 2012-15.
 - 369 service users accessed support.
 - 1,432.5 hours of helpline support and 2,601 calls to the helpline.
 - 15 paid members of staff and 23 volunteers.
 - Fundraising appeals launched due to end of key funding streams.
 - Secured 3 years funding from Scottish Government Violence Against Women Fund.
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- Launch of the Aurora Project, a new specialist service for women involved in prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation.
 - First online fundraising appeal launched in December 2012 secures over £40,000 and helps ensure that services aren't reduced.
 - Securing of new funding from NHS Lothian, Young Start (Big Fund), Edinburgh and Lothian Health Foundation, The Robertson Trust and Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland. Continued funding from the City of Edinburgh Council, East Lothian Council and Midlothian Community Safety Partnership.
 - 12 training courses to 111 participants.
 - New booklet produced for survivors which focuses on trauma, the effects of sexual violence, ways of coping and recovery.
 - 24 different leaflets distributed to 6,725 agencies, groups and individuals.
 - Dance movement therapy groups.
 - Development of STAR Project to open up young people's service to boys aged 12-18 who have experienced sexual violence.
 - STAR Project secures 3 years part funding from the BBC Children in Need.
 - Joined Rape Crisis Scotland's National Sexual Violence Prevention Project. Will work with key partners to begin prevention work with young people in 2014-15.
 - 416 service users accessed support, a 12% increase on the number of service users supported in 2012-13 (369).
 - 1,066 hours of helpline support and a total of 2,802 calls were responded to.
 - 35th Anniversary at the Scottish Parliament.

National and international

2012

'We Can Stop It' national campaign in Scotland led by the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS). The campaign asks people, and in particular young men to consider their own attitudes and behaviour and the role they can play in preventing rape.

A 23 year old student was gang raped on a bus in Delhi and later died from her injuries. This incident generated widespread national and international condemnation, and public protests across India.

Jimmy Saville revelations that he had committed hundreds of serious sexual offences inside public institutions against the most vulnerable children. This leads to a shift in public understanding and perception of sexual abuse.

2013

National Rape Crisis National Service Standards agreed.

The Scottish Government outlined its plans to introduce legislation to remove the requirement for corroboration.

Scottish Government consult on the Victim and Witnesses Bill, calling for sexual offence complainants to be given automatic entitlement to special measures in court such as screens and supporters.