

[EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 BST, 31 OCTOBER 2025]

Celebrities and bereaved families unite to demand justice for killed Black, minoritised and migrant women

On 31 October 2025 Killed Women charity launches a campaign to confront systemic failures that leave Black, minoritised and migrant (BMM) abuse victims and families unprotected and without justice. The campaign — **Invisible Women** — demands accountability, visibility and systemic reform across policing, Domestic Abuse-Related Death Reviews (formerly Domestic Homicide Reviews), inquests and support services.

The campaign brings together the bereaved families of BMM women killed through domestic abuse and fatal male violence, both in public spaces and in the home. The group also includes bereaved families who believe that substandard police investigations have meant their loved ones have never had justice, with their cases not leading to a conviction.

Last week, Invisible Women hosted a private dinner with a number of high-profile guests who support the campaign, including campaigner Melanie Brown MBE and presenter and athlete Jeanette Kwakye.

Invisible Women is calling for:

- Independent oversight and clear standards for death and serious-harm police investigations involving BMM women;
- Mandatory cultural competence training and accountability across the justice system — including policing and courts;
- Guaranteed access to specialist ‘by and for’ services and safe accommodation regardless of immigration status;
- An end to No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and removal of immigration-related barriers to safety;
- Disaggregated data based on ethnicity and public reporting of obligations by agencies such as the police.

Each year in Parliament, MP Jess Phillips reads aloud the names of women killed by men — a solemn reminder that behind every number is a woman whose life could have been saved. Of the 369 female domestic homicide victims recorded by the UK Government from 2020-2024, 88 (24%) were from BMM backgrounds (who formed 18% of the population in the 2021 census) (note 7.1). In London this disparity is even more pronounced and appalling: in 2023, 62% of femicide victims were Black, despite Black women comprising only around 14% of the city's female population (note 7.2); and all but two of the women killed by a man there that year were BMM women (note 7.3). These are stark indicators of systemic, cross-agency failure.

Invisible Women launches on 31 October 2025 with the film **Invisible Women: We Were Here, Where Were You?** and the joint research report (in partnership with Southall Black Sisters) **Invisible Women “Made Visible”: Learning from the Femicides of Black, Minoritised and Migrant Women**. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) organisations and the wider public are being asked to sign the Invisible Women **campaign pledge**, to share the film and the report, tagging allies using **#InvisibleWomen #WeWereHere #WhereWereYou**, and to commit to anti-racist, culturally competent practice.

Melanie Brown MBE, campaigner:

“This important campaign challenges racism and discrimination in policing and policy. We know it happens and it is up to us all to take action and call for much-needed changes. Last week I met some of the families who have lost their loved ones. Their stories devastated me but their courage to fight in the face of their grief just blew me away. It is so important that everybody joins us in this campaign and does everything they can to support them.”

Jhiselle Feanny, Co-Founder & Head of Outreach and Operations, Killed Women, and Co-Chair of Invisible Women:

“The bereaved families’ loved ones featured in this campaign should never have been invisible. Seven families are standing together to say: enough. We’re asking the public and institutions to stand with the families of this campaign — to say their loved ones were never invisible and to demand state accountability and action so that no more lives are lost.”

Dr. Hannana Siddiqui OBE, Director of Policy, Campaigns & Research, Southall Black Sisters, and Co-Chair of Invisible Women:

“Racism, misogyny, and community and state failures cost lives. Invisible Women demands urgent action to change cultural and religious norms which justify murder in the name of ‘honour’, and legal and policy reforms to end discrimination against BMM women to prevent femicide. Migrant women must have both status and support to escape abuse, and BMM women need specialist ‘by and for’ services and culturally appropriate responses so that such tragedies never happen again.”

Bekhal Mahmud, sister of Banaz Mahmud and victim-survivor:

“Although it brings so much sadness to my heart and makes me tremble with anger, this campaign will show the many failures of this country’s government and authorities that could have helped to keep these women safe instead of failing them due to their lack of knowledge and unwillingness to change laws for them and others who are likely to be in this position at some point in their lives.”

Family quotes**Failure to act on perpetrators’ known histories; victim-blaming and dismissal of abuse reports**

“It’s never the man’s fault. Women are always placed at the heart of the blame: What did you do to initiate this divorce? Why did you run away? Why couldn’t you make it work? And I think that goes across all societies, all backgrounds, all races. So whether it’s rape culture, or whether it’s sexual harassment, [the questions are always]: What were you wearing? What were you doing? Why did you go out there late at night? Do you really need to [go out for a] run on your own? All of those things, that kind of blame culture.” — Bereaved family member

“She was let down by lots of people. The police let her down. She’d gone to them so many times about the stalking, and they hadn’t taken it seriously. [She had an] injunction, [which] I don’t think was really taken seriously either. Sitting in the court, hearing evidence, [I felt] like, why didn’t you do more? Why didn’t you put something in place for her? Why didn’t you try and keep her safe?” — Bereaved family member

“The barriers are being heard, seen, understood. Because they will listen to you, and think, ‘oh, that’s so far-fetched’. And ‘that could never happen in the UK’. And they see you, and they think, ‘yeah, she just had a bit of a tumble with her partner’. They don’t look deeper into it. And they just don’t take you seriously at all.” — Bereaved family member

Lack of adequate training and coordinated safeguarding

“They had no training, the system was failing, they had no idea what they were dealing with.” — Bereaved family member

Failure to collect evidence and investigate properly

“We felt really disappointed with their behaviour and lack of enthusiasm to investigate the case properly. It got to a point where we were just contacting them all the time and trying to get information. They didn’t want to follow up the case properly or follow the leads. There was so much evidence they could have had.” — Bereaved family member

NOTES

1. **Killed Women** is a charity for bereaved families of women killed by men, which campaigns to prevent violence, secure justice, and improve rights and support for the families left behind. www.killedwomen.org
2. **Invisible Women** is a family-led campaign founded by Killed Women Co-Founder Jhiselle Feanny with support from Dr. Hannana Siddiqui of Southall Black Sisters. Invisible Women brings together the bereaved families of BMM women killed through domestic abuse and fatal male violence, both in public spaces and in the home. This includes bereaved families who believe that substandard police investigations have meant their loved ones have never had justice, with their cases not leading to a conviction.
3. **The campaign launches on 31 October 2025** with the release of the film *Invisible Women: We Were Here, Where Were You?*, the release of the report *Invisible Women "Made Visible": Learning from the Femicides of Black, Minoritised and Migrant Women*, and a pledge drive, which will be featured on www.killedwomen.org (campaign page goes live 31 October). Hashtags: #InvisibleWomen #WeWereHere #WhereWereYou.
4. **Killed Women Pledge:** *Invisible Women Campaign – We Were Here, Where Were You?*
We want justice, along with a government commitment to culturally competent, anti-racist practice and to amplifying bereaved families' calls for change. By making your pledge you affirm your commitment to help us:
 - **See and honour our women:** Amplify bereaved families' voices by sharing the film *Invisible Women: We Were Here, Where Were You?*, the *Invisible Women "Made Visible"*, the pledge and the campaign in general, with the hashtags #InvisibleWomen #WeWereHere #WhereWereYou.
 - **Change practice:** Commit to anti-racist, culturally competent responses across policy, policing and support, and remove barriers such as NRPF; while challenging institutional racism, bias and neglect.
 - **Support:** Back specialist 'by and for' services.
 You can also show your support for the campaign by making a donation to Killed Women (<https://www.killedwomen.org/donate>).
5. **Cultural competence** is defined by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE, 2022) as the ability to understand and respond to a person's religious, cultural or language needs (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng227/chapter/Terms-used-in-this-guideline>).
6. **No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)** is an immigration condition that applies to people 'subject to immigration control'. It prohibits access to a specific list of 'public funds' (mainly welfare benefits and local-authority housing assistance), unless an exception applies. The list of what counts as 'public funds' is set by the Home Office/Immigration

Rules; contributory benefits based on National Insurance are generally **not** classed as public funds (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/33/section/115>).

7. **Resources:** (1) UK, 2020-2024: *Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP), Domestic Homicides and Suspected Victim Suicides 2020-2024, Year 4 Report* (March 2025) (https://www.vkpp.org.uk/assets/Year-4-Report_publication.pdf). (2) London, 2023: "Government pledges to protect more women from violence" (Home Office report, 6 March 2025) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-pledges-to-protect-more-women-from-violence>). (3) London, 2023 (information from the Femicide Census): "The Metropolitan Police only started supplying the Femicide Census with data since 2022, despite requests going back yearly since 2015. Crucially, data on race has been partial or absent from nearly every police force in the country. However, following a Freedom of Information request by an Associated Press journalist, the Met Police disclosed information about femicides from 2021-2023 (<https://www.met.police.uk/foi-ai/metropolitan-police/disclosure-2024/july-2024/violence-against-women-data-2021-2023/>). The data on black and minorities femicides were alarming." (4) The Invisible Women campaign builds on research such as the groundbreaking report created by Imkaan and the Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ), *Life or Death? Preventing Domestic Homicides and Suicides of Black and Minoritised Women* (Nov 2023), the first of its kind to examine the deaths of Black and minoritised women as a result of domestic abuse, and which provides an in-depth analysis of 46 case studies of domestic abuse.
8. **Media contacts.** Please send all requests by email to: info@killedwomen.org. Members of Invisible Women available for comment: Ayse Hussein, Yasmin Javed and Jazz Janagle. Please note: Due to ongoing legal processes, Jhiselle Feanny will not be able to discuss her own case.

LINKS

Invisible Women campaign information: www.killedwomen.org (*IW page goes live 31 October*)

Invisible Women campaign film: *Invisible Women: We Were Here, Where Were You?*

Invisible Women research report: *Invisible Women "Made Visible": Learning from the Femicides of Black, Minoritised and Migrant Women* (October 2025)

Killed Women Pledge: *Invisible Women Campaign – We Were Here, Where Were You?* (see also attached page with QR code)

Killed Women donation page: <https://www.killedwomen.org/donate>

Killed Women

*Invisible Women
Pledge*

Killed Women: Invisible Women
Campaign Pledge



With...



For women and children.
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