

JUST AS

Beautiful

"The UK's first free lifestyle magazine dedicated to the plus-size woman"

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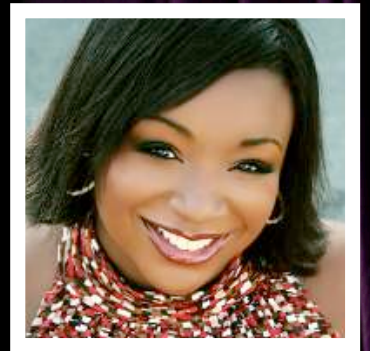
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Beating Domestic Violence

October is the month set aside to raise awareness of domestic violence. Last year we brought you the story of Miss New York Plus, who was shot in the face and left for dead by a violent partner. Things like this do bring a tear to the eye, and government statistics on the issue are also quite shocking. There is no doubt that a lot needs to be done and at the forefront of tackling the problem is The National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV).

The NCDV recently held an exhibition of 10 paintings by the artist Adelaide Damoah; all telling stories depicting the problem from various perspectives. Speaking at the event Steve Connor, Founder of the Centre said: "What we are trying to do is to raise awareness of domestic abuse, and we thought that having artwork that could visually describe what people go through when they are in an abusive



relationship is a good way to do that. So we commissioned Adelaide, who is an incredibly good artist to put on a display for us. Each painting sums up a particular element of domestic abuse that we deal with on a day-to-day basis. Everything from your traditional male on female violence, right through to elderly abuse by family members and through to same-sex couple abuse in a way that hasn't been seen before."

Adelaide herself has been a victim and has spoken to many individuals affected by this abuse who have worked with the Centre. "I was

approached by the centre to produce some work relating to domestic violence; to highlight the Domestic Violence Awareness Month and they introduced me to a few people who had been through the experience themselves.

"I happen to be close to some people that have had quite traumatic experiences with domestic violence. One particular person I know had a really bad experience whilst pregnant. I also had a 24 hour nightmare about 7 years ago with an ex partner – it was just one day but he knocked me about a bit and it was quite bad (there was a

bit of blood). Because of that experience I was able to empathise with some of the people that I was speaking to, and therefore create a series of paintings which I hope captured a wide range of stories and experiences," said Adelaide of her involvement.

In 2002, Steve founded the London Centre for Domestic Violence, forerunner of the National Centre for Domestic Violence. The charity was inspired by a close friend who was being abused by her partner and turned to him for support. Under his direction the Centre has grown into the foremost national domestic



violence charity, delivering the protection of the civil courts to more people than any other organisation. Unlike many other charities in this field, NCDV offers a free service to men and women across the country, the office is manned 24 hours-a-day and they can help victims get an injunction within 24 hours.

Even the actress Charlie Brooks, best known for her role as Janine in BBC hit soap EastEnders, is also lending her support to The National

Centre for Domestic Violence. Although not a victim of domestic violence herself, Charlie feels strongly about the subject and wants to help men and women across the country by lifting the lid on a taboo issue and raising awareness of the services offered by the Centre. According to Charlie: "The National Centre for Domestic Violence approached me to be an Ambassador for the charity and after visiting the Centre and meeting with the team, I

was delighted to offer them my support. I was overwhelmed by the speed at which they can obtain court injunctions and offer help to those who are in a desperate situation. As an Ambassador for the Charity I offer them my full support in helping the fight against domestic abuse."

"We need to let people know that if they are in a situation like that they shouldn't just sit down and think that they're alone," says Steve.



NCDV & Domestic Violence Core Facts

- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will be a victim of DV
- The Met Police receive one 999 DV related 999 call per minute, 24 hours a day
- DV is the biggest killer of women aged 19-45, more than cancer, road accidents or war
- NCDV has now obtained over 20000 emergency injunctions, sometimes obtaining up to 60 per day – they receive over 6000 calls a month
- They have trained over 3000 police officers and 2500 law students. NCDV is a registered charity operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and receives no state or government funding, relying solely on donations and voluntary support.
- The service is available to anybody, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or financial circumstances.