**EU Citizens Support Service**

**Glasgow VAWG Partnership Briefing**

In January 2020 the UK left the EU, and on 31st December 2020 what is known as the transition period ended. During the transition period EU citizens\* had the right to live work and study in the UK. Now that the transition period has ended all EU citizens and their family members who wish to stay in the UK must apply under the EU Settlement Scheme for either **Settled Status** (indefinite leave to remain) or **Pre-Settled Status** (limited leave to remain for 5 years) before 30th June 2021.

It is important that all EU citizens and their family members apply to the EU Settlement Scheme before the deadline of 30th June 2021 to allow them to live, work and study in the UK beyond that date.

Citizens Advice Scotland has a free, confidential and impartial service for anyone that requires support or advice with their application and we are eager to work with Glasgow VAWG Partnership to provide support and advice to vulnerable women with their applications to the EU Settlement Scheme.

We have a team of specialist advisers based in bureaux across Scotland as well as a national telephone helpline which is open between 09:00 and 17:00 Monday to Friday. The national telephone helpline number is **0800 916 9847** and calls are taken by the service’s specialist advisers.

However, due to the vulnerability of your clients we have identified two advisers that will be the point of contact for your clients. These advisers are Gita Blaze from Greater Pollok CAB and Zhila Faraji from Glasgow North West CAB. Gita and Zhila are aware of the vulnerability of your clients and either of them will be the single point of contact for you. There should be no requirement for either yourself or your clients to contact the national telephone helpline.

For new clients it would be of great assistance if the email referral could be made by a worker. Once we have received the referral, we will work with both the client and worker to assist with the EU Settlement Scheme application. On occasion it may be necessary for Gita and Zhila to involve the client’s local bureau, but we will endeavour to have Gita and Zhila as the sole points of contact wherever possible.

The contact details for Gita and Zhila are as follows:

Gita Blaze EUProj@gpollokcab.org.uk Phone No: 07500973609 (not to be given to clients)

Zhila Faraji Zhila.Faraji@gnwcab.org.uk Phone No: 07551904892 (not to be given to clients)

Gita covers the areas covered by the Greater Pollok, Parkhead, Bridgeton and Castlemilk CAB offices and Zhila covers the areas of the Glasgow NW, Drumchapel, Easterhouse and Glasgow Central CAB offices.

\*EU citizens includes citizens of the EU member states, as well as citizens of EEA states (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), and citizens of Switzerland.