

**From:** Emmylou Brossard  
**Sent:** 26 October 2022  
**To:** Sharon Groth  
**Subject:** DA & VAWG Exhibition

Hi Sharon,

I hope you are keeping well.

As you are aware 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence is coming up, and I was wondering if there was any possibility of holding an exhibition at the Corn Exchange for free or reduced rates? If you have any councillors who are interested in this area of work, it is hoped that we can get the media involved on the day.

Catherine is a Domestic Abuse Champion and runs a Domestic Abuse Support Group at the Branch in Chipping Norton, she has provided some details about the specifics of the exhibition below. If you are able to support, please feel free to contact Catherine directly, I have left her details at the end of the email.

**Phoenix Rising – an exhibition depicting the reality of living through abuse and the hope that can be found beyond it.**

The Phoenix Project is a collaboration between The Branch Trust, Community Albums and WODC.

It was initiated from a support group for women who have experienced abusive relationships. These women do not want any other person to go through what they have, and so by sharing their stories they aim to raise awareness about what it is really like to live through an abusive relationship and how to access support. They also want to show that there is hope and life beyond abusive relationships.

The women have used artwork and creative ways to share their experiences, and working with Community Albums, have made two 10 minute films – one that gives facts and information for those in abusive relationships and one that focuses on their stories and the reality of abuse and its impact.

The group has also produced a body of work – paintings, drawings, poetry and installations – to be exhibited. It sits alongside the two films, but is also powerful in its own right and will provoke thought and emotion in those that see it and hopefully spark conversations about Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls which will lead to positive changes beginning to happen.

We would love the exhibition and launch event to take place during the 16 Day of DA Activism, however, if that is not possible it will be a valuable opportunity to exhibit at any other time.

Emmylou Brossard  
Safer Communities Officer  
West Oxfordshire District Council