



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

## Supplementary guidance on domestic abuse and homelessness

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# Supplementary guidance on domestic abuse and homelessness

## Introduction

1. This guidance is issued to local housing authorities ('housing authorities') in England under section 182(1) of the Housing Act 1996 ('the 1996 Act'). Housing authorities are required to have regard to it in exercising their functions under Part 7 of the 1996 Act ('Part 7').
2. This statutory guidance supplements the relevant sections of the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities issued in July 2006, and the Supplementary Guidance on the homelessness changes in the Localism Act 2011 and on the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2012 issued in November 2012 which deal with domestic abuse. This guidance should be read in conjunction with existing guidance.
3. This guidance looks at domestic abuse and homelessness. In this guidance the term violence is shorthand for all types of abuse.
4. Domestic abuse is an insidious crime against a partner within an intimate or family relationship. The Government is committed to protecting those at risk of or fleeing domestic abuse. More information about the Government's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls strategy is available here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-uk>

## What is domestic abuse?

5. Domestic violence and abuse is not simply physical violence. When working with victims of domestic abuse local authorities must take account of the cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse. This defines domestic violence and abuse as:

any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

6. **Psychological** - including: Intimidation, insults, isolating the person from friends and family, criticising, denying the abuse, treating the person as an inferior, threatening to harm children or take them away, forced marriage.

7. **Physical** - this can include: Shaking, smacking, punching, kicking, presence of finger or bite marks, bruising, starving, tying up, stabbing, suffocation, throwing things, using objects as weapons, female genital mutilation. Physical effects are often in areas of the body that are covered and hidden (i.e. breasts, legs and stomach).
8. **Sexual** - such as: rape (including the threat of rape), sexual assault, forced prostitution, ignoring religious prohibitions about sex, refusal to practise safe sex, sexual insults, passing on sexually transmitted diseases, preventing breastfeeding.
9. **Financial** - such as: Not letting the person work, undermining efforts to find work or study, refusing to give money, asking for an explanation of how every penny is spent, making the person beg for money, gambling, not paying bills, building up debt in the other person's name.
10. **Emotional** - including: Swearing, undermining confidence, making racist, sexist or other derogatory remarks, making the person feel unattractive, calling the person stupid or useless, eroding the person's independence, keeping them isolated from family or friends.
11. So-called honour-based abuse is also a form of domestic abuse. Honour-based abuse is explained by the perpetrator of the abuse on the grounds that it was committed as a consequence of the need to protect or defend the honour of the family, it can include all the types of abuse listed below and specific crimes such as forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
12. Over the years as we have understood more about the nature of domestic abuse the definition of domestic abuse has changed. Housing authorities should be alert to any future developments and should never adopt a narrow definition.

## What do we mean by controlling behaviour and coercive behaviour?

13. Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour. There may be single or multiple perpetrators of domestic abuse.
14. Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

## Who experiences domestic abuse?

15. People may experience domestic abuse regardless of ethnicity, religion, class, age, sexuality, disability or lifestyle. Domestic violence can also occur in a range of relationships including heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender relationships, and also within extended families. Housing authorities should bear in mind that the

provisions of the Equality Act 2010 for public authorities apply to policies, practice and procedures relating to homelessness and domestic violence. This includes commissioning and procurement. For example as statistics show that women are more likely than men to experience domestic violence the gender equality duty needs to be considered.<sup>1</sup>

## Understanding domestic abuse

16. An important factor in ensuring that an authority develops a strong and appropriate response to domestic abuse is understanding what it is, the context in which it takes place in and what the impacts are on victims; as well as how the impacts may be different on different groups of people. For example, victims from black and minority ethnic communities may present with a range of specific needs, including fear of rejection by the community, loss of access to faith and community spaces and may lack English skills to engage in processes. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender victims may present with different needs again including fear of being outed or being excluded from community spaces.

17. Specialist training for frontline staff, managers and commissioners will help housing advisers to understand how best to tackle the issues victims face and provide or commission the appropriate support. Your local specialist domestic abuse service provider for example local black and minority ethnic, youth and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender service provider or national agencies such as Women's Aid and Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse can provide training on domestic abuse, and offer support to commission better local services.

## Victims with no recourse to public funds

18. People who have no recourse to public funds are not eligible for homelessness assistance. The Government operates the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession to support those who have entered or stayed in the UK as a spouse, unmarried partner, same-sex or civil partner of a British Citizen, or settled citizen and this relationship has broken down due to domestic violence and abuse.

19. A victim may be eligible if:

- They came to the UK or were granted leave to stay in the UK as the spouse or partner of a British Citizen or someone settled in the UK
- Their relationship has broken down due to domestic violence and abuse.

20. They can then apply to the Home Office for limited leave to remain under the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession to enable them to access public funds whilst they prepare and submit an application for indefinite leave to remain.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/public-sector-equality-duty>

## Preventing homelessness

21. Gaining a good understanding of the causes of homelessness will help to inform the range of preventative measures that need to be put in place. Many statutory and non-statutory services can contribute to preventing homelessness. Housing authorities should adopt an open approach and recognise that there will be a broad range of organisations operating in fields other than housing including, for example, organisations working to tackle domestic abuse.

22. Households at risk of domestic abuse often have to leave their homes because of the risk of abuse. 70% of referrals to refuge services in England are from local authority areas outside the one in which the services is located<sup>2</sup>. There is a clear need for women and their children to be able to travel to different areas in order for them to be safe from the perpetrator. We would expect local areas to extend the same level of support to those from other areas as they do to their own residents.

23. Refuges and other forms of emergency and temporary accommodation can provide a safe and supportive environment for households fleeing violence but many households do not wish to leave their homes or choose to return to their homes after a short stay in temporary accommodation despite the risks.

24. Sanctuary Schemes are an additional accommodation option for households at risk of domestic violence which can, where suitable and appropriate, offer households the choice of remaining in their homes. Putting in place a Sanctuary Scheme should not be seen as a replacement for refuge provision. A Sanctuary Scheme must only be used where it is the victim's choice, where it is safe (i.e. subject to a thorough risk assessment) and where the perpetrator no longer lives in the property.

25. A Sanctuary Scheme is a multi-agency victim centred initiative which aims to enable households at risk of violence to remain safely in their own homes by installing a 'Sanctuary' in the home and through the provision of support to the household. A 'Sanctuary' comprises enhanced security measures designed to enable households to remain safely in their homes.

26. Based on extensive research Government published guidance to assist local practitioners in developing strategies to prevent homelessness and support for households at risk of domestic abuse. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sanctuary-schemes-for-households-at-risk-of-domestic-violence-guide-for-agencies>.

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<sup>2</sup> Meeting the needs of households at risk of domestic violence in England: The role of accommodation and housing-related support services. DCLG 2010

## Identifying domestic abuse early and responding appropriately

27. By better understanding domestic abuse housing authorities will begin to see the strategic links and discover more opportunities to work with others to help tackle and prevent domestic abuse. Housing authorities should have strong policies in place to identify domestic abuse. Alongside their role in tackling homelessness local authorities should take an active role in identifying victims and referring them for help and support. They are key partners in local domestic violence partnerships and should be represented at their local multi-agency risk assessment conference. Every area in England now has a multi-agency risk assessment conference.

28. The multi-agency risk assessment conference leads multi-agency safety planning for high-risk victims of domestic abuse. It brings together the police, independent domestic violence advisers, children's social services, health, social landlords and other relevant agencies. They share information and write a safety plan for each victim and family, which may include actions by any agency present. The housing authority should be consistently represented at the multi-agency risk assessment conference, and should make sure relevant social landlords are also represented.

29. Where a disclosure of domestic abuse is made to a housing advisor, whether or not in the context of a homelessness presentation, the housing advisor should refer to the authority's domestic violence policy and act appropriately.

30. Many housing authorities are landlords but even where they have transferred their stock they will still maintain strong links with local landlords, whether private or registered providers. Housing providers are uniquely placed to spot signs and respond to domestic abuse as they are often on the frontline in communities and in tenants' homes. Authorities should consider how they might identify potential victims of abuse. For example housing organisations are ideally placed as they have access to people's homes for maintenance purposes and can spot domestic abuse through an analysis of repairs and also through community development work where trained staff can spot signs of abuse.

31. Those experiencing domestic abuse often only report to Police after more informal routes have been exhausted. Victims can experience many, many incidents of abuse before calling the Police. Housing providers are in a position to identify abuse at earlier stages and should consider how they can best provide support to their residents. By understanding the indicators of domestic abuse through training and professional development, housing officers can increase their confidence to speak to people experiencing abuse, risk assess and safety plan alongside them. Organisations such as the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance have developed practical approaches to service delivery based on national research to enable landlords to analyse and improve their existing response to domestic abuse. These help practitioners to spot the early signs of domestic abuse and enable them to take action to stop any further escalation.

32. Local authorities should also be alert to the wider role they play in ensuring victim safety. Procedures should be in place to keep all information on victims safe and secure. In many cases, particularly where extended family members or multiple perpetrators may be involved, for example in female genital mutilation, forced marriage and so called honour

based violence cases, perpetrators go to great lengths to seek information on victims. The authority must be alert to the possibility that employees could have links to perpetrators. We would recommend that all cases where any domestic abuse is indicated must be flagged to alert any officer accessing the file that information is not to be given to anyone other than the applicant. Consideration should also be given to restricting access to cases where abuse is disclosed to only named members of staff. Housing authorities should also consider how they flag case files so they can identify those victims who have been referred to a multi agency risk assessment conference and who may once again present as homeless.

## Securing services

33. Support services play an essential role in preventing and tackling homelessness. The Homelessness Code of Guidance for local authorities outlines the types of housing-related and other support services that might be required.

34. In formulating their homelessness strategies, housing authorities need to recognise that for some households, homelessness cannot be tackled, or prevented, solely through the provision of accommodation. Some households will require a range of support services, which may include housing-related support to help them sustain their accommodation, as well as personal support relating to factors such as relationship breakdown, domestic violence, mental health problems, drug and alcohol addiction, poverty, debt and unemployment.

35. There will be a number of accommodation options for victims of domestic abuse. Housing authorities should consider which are most appropriate for each person on a case by case basis taking into account their needs. This may include temporary accommodation or a managed transfer, as well as refuge.

36. For some victims with severe needs and with highly dangerous perpetrators, refuges will be the most appropriate choice. Refuges provide key short term, intensive support for those who flee from abuse. Given the intensity of the support and the vulnerability of the victims attention should be paid to the length of time they spend in a refuge. Refuges are not simply a substitute for other forms of temporary accommodation. Working with the service provider the housing authority should consider how long a person needs to stay before the provision of other accommodation (which may be temporary in the absence of settled accommodation) with floating support may be more appropriate.

37. When commissioning services for victims of domestic abuse the Secretary of State recommends that authorities adhere to the following standards around:

- Safety, security and dignity
- Rights and access
- Physical and emotional help
- Stability, resilience and autonomy
- Children and young people
- Prevention

38. These standards<sup>3</sup> set out the minimum levels of service we would expect to see in a refuge:

### **Safety, Security and Dignity**

- Victims can access crisis support at any time and receive a timely response.
- Victims are assessed and offered services on the basis of their individual need for safety and support
- Victims are assisted to move geographical location if necessary for their safety
- Provision for male victims is located separately from women's services, within dedicated men's services.

### **Rights and Access**

- Service users are believed and listened to and service interventions are respectful of their rights to self-determination
- Service users with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 can access dedicated specialist services addressing their particular needs
- Resources are allocated to addressing barriers to access.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

- The physical, mental and sexual health needs of service users are addressed
- Service users can access individual counselling or group work to build their confidence and resources
- The organisation works with partners in the sexual violence sector to provide specialist therapeutic support
- The safety and wellbeing of staff teams is attended to.

### **Stability, resilience and autonomy**

- Service users are supported to take charge of decision-making processes in their lives
- Service users are encouraged to identify goals and access education, training and employment to maximise their stability and independence
- Service users have access to resettlement and follow-up services with exit strategies tailored to individual need.

### **Children and young people**

- The safety and wellbeing of children and young people is addressed in risk assessment and support planning

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<sup>3</sup> These standards are derived from the Women's Aid National Quality Standards. Service providers may find the full standards of use:

<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=0001000100350002%C2%A7ionTitle=National+Service+Standards&>

- Children are able to access support to understand their experiences and build their resilience and confidence.
- Support is provided to mothers to develop their parenting resources and maintain their relationships with their children.
- Services are responsive to the needs and views of children and young people.

## Prevention

- Children and young people are better informed and educated around consent, healthy relationships, gender inequality and violence against women and girls
- The organisation contributes to training and awareness-raising activities with other professionals and within local communities
- The organisation contributes to local strategies for ending violence against women and girls.

39. Housing authorities should also consider working with other local authorities and other commissioners to commission or provide services to tackle domestic abuse. When they are developing homelessness strategies that tackle domestic abuse they should also involve the local Domestic Violence Forum and local domestic violence service provider(s).

## Duties to those homeless or threatened with homelessness

40. The Housing Act 1996 sets out clearly those duties a housing authority owes vulnerable victims of domestic abuse and other violence.

41. Section 177(1) provides that it is not reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation if it is probable that this will lead to domestic violence or other violence against:

- i) the applicant;
- ii) a person who normally resides as a member of the applicant's family; or
- iii) any other person who might reasonably be expected to reside with the applicant.

42. Section 177(1A) provides that violence means violence from another person or threats of violence from another person which are likely to be carried out. Domestic violence is violence from a person who is associated with the victim and also includes threats of violence which are likely to be carried out. Domestic violence is not confined to instances within the home but extends to violence outside the home.

43. Section 178 provides that, for the purposes of defining domestic violence, a person is associated with another if:

- a) they are, or have been, married to each other;
- b) they are or have been civil partners of each other;
- c) they are, or have been, cohabitants (including same sex partners);

- d) they live, or have lived, in the same household;
- e) they are relatives, i.e. father, mother, stepfather, stepmother, son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, granddaughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, niece or nephew (whether of full blood, half blood or by affinity) of that person or of that person's spouse or former spouse. A person is also included if he or she would fall into any of these categories in relation to cohabitees or former cohabitees if they were married to each other;
- f) they have agreed to marry each other whether or not that agreement has been terminated;
- g) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement between them whether or not that agreement has been terminated;
- h) in relation to a child, each of them is a parent of the child or has, or has had, parental responsibility for the child (within the meaning of the Children Act 1989). A child is a person under 18 years of age;
- i) if a child has been adopted or freed for adoption (s.16(1) Adoption Act 1976), two persons are also associated if one is the natural parent or grandparent of the child and the other is the child of a person who has become the parent by virtue of an adoption order (s.72(1) Adoption Act 1976) or has applied for an adoption order or someone with whom the child has been placed for adoption.

44. The Secretary of State considers that the term 'violence' should not be given a restrictive meaning, and that 'domestic violence' should be understood to include threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between persons who are, or have been, intimate partners, family members or members of the same household, regardless of gender or sexuality. This matter was dealt with in *Yemshaw v London Borough of Hounslow*<sup>4</sup>.

45. An assessment of the likelihood of a threat of violence or abuse being carried out should not be based on whether there has been actual violence or abuse in the past. An assessment must be based on the facts of the case and devoid of any value judgements about what an applicant should or should not do, or should or should not have done, to mitigate the risk of any violence and abuse (e.g. seek police help or apply for an injunction against the perpetrator). Inquiries into cases where violence and abuse is alleged will need careful handling.

46. It is essential that inquiries do not provoke further violence and abuse. It is not advisable for the housing authority to approach the alleged perpetrator, since this could generate further violence and abuse, and may delay the assessment. Housing authorities may, however, wish to seek information from friends and relatives of the applicant, social services and the police, as appropriate. In some cases, corroborative evidence of actual or threatened violence may not be available, for example, because there were no adult witnesses and/or the applicant was too frightened or ashamed to report incidents to family, friends or the police. In many cases involving violence, the applicant may be in considerable distress and an officer trained in dealing with the particular circumstances should conduct the interview. Applicants should be given the option of being interviewed

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<sup>4</sup> *Yemshaw v London Borough of Hounslow* [2011] UKSC 3

by an officer of the same sex if they so wish. Be aware that this may be the first time a victim has disclosed their abuse and that the period during which a victim is planning or making their exit, is often the **most dangerous time** for them and their children.

47. In cases where violence is a feature and the applicant may have a local connection elsewhere, the housing authority, in considering whether to notify another housing authority about a possible referral of the case, must be aware that s.198 provides that an applicant cannot be referred to another housing authority if he or she, or any person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him or her, would be at risk of violence in the district of the other housing authority.

48. In cases involving violence and abuse, housing authorities may wish to inform applicants of the option of seeking an injunction, but should make clear that there is no obligation on the applicant to do so. The authority may want to consider working with other organisations, for example local or national specialist domestic abuse service providers, such as Women's Aid or Refuge, or a local Independent Domestic Violence Adviser. Victims should be allowed sufficient time and space to absorb and understand the options available to them. Where applicants wish to pursue this option, authorities should inform them that they should seek legal advice and that legal aid for non-molestation orders remains in scope and there is no longer a fee payable for these applications. Further information about Legal Aid is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid>

49. Housing authorities should recognise that injunctions ordering a person not to molest, or enter the home of an applicant may not be effective in deterring some habitual perpetrators from carrying out further violence or incursions, and applicants may not have confidence in their effectiveness. Consequently, applicants should not be expected to return home on the strength of an injunction. To ensure applicants who have experienced actual or threatened violence get the support they need, authorities should inform them of appropriate specialist organisations in the area, as above, as well as agencies offering counselling and support.

50. When dealing with cases involving violence, or threat of violence, from outside the home, housing authorities should consider the option of improving the security of the applicant's home to enable him or her to continue to live there safely, where that is an option that the applicant wishes to pursue. In some cases, immediate action to improve security within the victim's home may prevent homelessness. A fast response combined with support from the housing authority, police and the voluntary sector may provide a victim with the confidence to remain in their home.

51. When dealing with domestic violence within the home, where the authority is the landlord, housing authorities should consider the scope for evicting the perpetrator and allowing the victim to remain in their home. **However, where there would be a probability of violence if the applicant continued to occupy his or her present accommodation, the housing authority must treat the applicant as homeless and should not expect him or her to remain in, or return to, the accommodation. In all cases involving violence the safety of the applicant and his or her household should be the primary consideration at all stages of decision making as to whether or not the applicant remains in their own home.**

## Having left accommodation because of violence

52. A person has a priority need if he or she is vulnerable as a result of having to leave accommodation because of violence from another person, or threats of violence from another person that are likely to be carried out. It will usually be apparent from the assessment of the reason for homelessness whether the applicant has had to leave accommodation because of violence or threats of violence. **In cases involving violence, the safety of the applicant and ensuring confidentiality must be of paramount concern.** It is not only domestic violence and abuse that is relevant, but all forms of violence, including racially motivated violence or threats of violence likely to be carried out. Inquiries of the perpetrators of violence should not be made. In assessing whether it is likely that threats of violence are likely to be carried out, a housing authority should only take into account the probability of violence, and not actions which the applicant could take (such as injunctions against the perpetrators).

53. In considering whether applicants are vulnerable as a result of leaving accommodation because of violence or threats of violence likely to be carried out, a housing authority may wish to take into account the following factors:

- i) the nature of the violence or threats of violence (there may have been a single but significant incident or a number of incidents over an extended period of time which have had a cumulative effect);
- ii) the impact and likely effects of the violence or threats of violence on the applicant's current and future well being;
- iii) whether the applicant has any existing support networks, particularly by way of family or friends
- iv) the continuing threat from the perpetrator.

## Suitability of accommodation

54. Account will need to be taken of any social considerations relating to the applicant and his or her household that might affect the suitability of accommodation. Any risk of violence or racial harassment in a particular locality must also be taken into account. Where domestic violence is involved and the applicant is not able to stay in the current home, housing authorities may need to consider the need for alternative accommodation whose location can be kept a secret and which has security measures and appropriately trained staff to protect the occupants. For applicants who have suffered domestic violence who are accommodated in an emergency in hostels or bed and breakfast accommodation, the accommodation should be gender-specific as well as have security measures.

## Location

55. Whilst authorities should, as far as is practicable, aim to secure accommodation within their own district, they should also recognise that there can be clear benefits for some applicants to be accommodated outside of the district. This could occur, for

example, where the applicant, and/or a member of his or her household, would be at risk of domestic or other violence in the district and need to be accommodated elsewhere to reduce the risk of further contact with the perpetrator(s) or where ex-offenders or drug/alcohol users would benefit from being accommodated outside the district to help break links with previous contacts which could exert a negative influence. Any risk of violence or racial harassment in a particular locality must also be taken into account. Where domestic violence is involved and the applicant is not able to stay in the current home, housing authorities may need to consider the need for alternative accommodation whose location can be kept a secret and which has security measures and staffing to protect the occupants.

## Risk of violence

56. A housing authority cannot refer an applicant to another housing authority if that person or any person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him or her would be at risk of violence. The housing authority is under a positive duty to enquire whether the applicant would be at such a risk and, if he or she would, it should not be assumed that the applicant will take steps to deal with the threat.

57. Section 198(3) defines violence as violence from another person or threats of violence from another person which are likely to be carried out. This is the same definition as appears in s.177 in relation to whether it is reasonable to continue to occupy accommodation and the circumstances to be considered as to whether a person runs a risk of violence are the same.

58. Housing authorities should be alert to the deliberate distinction which is made in s.198(3) between actual violence and threatened violence. A high standard of proof of actual violence in the past should not be imposed. The threshold is that there must be:

- (a) no risk of domestic violence (actual or threatened) in the other district; and
- (b) no risk of non-domestic violence (actual or threatened) in the other district. Nor should “domestic violence” be interpreted restrictively.

## Support from other organisations and useful links

If you are a victim of domestic violence and abuse, other organisations can offer you help and support.

### **The National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline**

(Partnership with Refuge & Women's Aid) 0808 2000 247

[www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk)

### **Women's Aid:** [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

Women's Aid has an A-Z of local services that can help you locate your local provider

<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/azrefuges.asp?section=00010001000800060002&itemTitle=A-Z+of+services>

### **Broken Rainbow** (Lesbian Gay Bisexual And Transgender domestic violence charity)

0303 999 5428 [www.brokenrainbow.org.uk](http://www.brokenrainbow.org.uk)

### **The National Stalking Helpline** (Support and help for stalking victims)

0808 802 0300 [www.stalkinghelpline.org](http://www.stalkinghelpline.org)

### **Male Advice Line** (Support for male victims of domestic violence)

0808 801 0327 [www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk)

**Respect** (Perpetrators helpline to help stop their violence and change their abusive behaviours) 0808 802 4040 [www.respect.uk.net/](http://www.respect.uk.net/)

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## Useful links

Find out about domestic violence and abuse, coercive control, disclosure scheme, protection notices, domestic homicide reviews and advisers.

<https://www.gov.uk/domestic-violence-and-abuse>

Application for Destitution Domestic Violence concession

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-benefits-for-visa-holder-domestic-violence>

Government's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls strategy is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-uk>

The government have funded Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse to support multi agency risk assessment conferences. More information is available at [http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/Information\\_about\\_MARACs.html](http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/Information_about_MARACs.html), and specific guidance for housing representatives is available at <http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/Toolkit-Housing-Feb-2012.pdf>. If your authority is not represented at your multi agency risk assessment conferences, please contact your local multi agency risk assessment conferences co-ordinator (their contact details are available at <http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/findamarac.html>)

The Domestic Abuse and Housing Alliance seeks to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of national domestic abuse service standards. See <http://www.peabody.org.uk/resident-services/safer-communities/domestic-abuse/daha>

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